THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

VOLUME XXXVIII *July 1954* NUMBER 3

1804 – SESQUI-CENTENNIAL – 1954

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THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

VOLUME XXXVIII JULY 1954 NUMBER 3

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CONTENTS

Sesqui-Centennial Introduction . . FENWICK BEEKMAN, M.D. 209

The History of the Future . . . . . GRAYSON L. KIRK 212

Elegant Dinners and Eloquent Diners . . . R. W. G. VAIL 223

General Tom Thumb's Widow . . . ALICE CURTIS DESMOND 311

A Student at N.Y.U. in 1847: Excerpts from the Diary of John E. Parsons, edited by a Namesake 325

Book Reviews and Notices:

Kouwenhoven, *The Columbia Historical Portrait of New York* . . . . . BAYRD STILL 345

Fairchild, *Messrs. William Pepperell: Merchants at Piscataqua* . . . . . PHILIP L. WHITE 346

Merle-Smith, *The Village of Oyster Bay . . . 1653 to 1700*

Gould & Klaber, *Colonial Huntington, 1653–1800*

Our Town Huntington

Cold Spring Harbor Soundings . . . . . JESSE MERRITT 348

Rosenbaum, *Myer Myers, Goldsmith, 1723–1795* CAROLYN SCOON 349

Activities of the Society 350

Recent Accessions 352

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THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY SESQUI-CENTENNIAL DINNER, UNION CLUB, MAY 3, 1954

Back row, left to right: A. M. White, A. E. Foster, S. W. Davidson, Forsyth Wickes, H. F. du Pont, T. W. Streeter, G. L. Kirk, Fenwick Beekman, M.D., L. T. Smith, D. M. Lockman, N.A., S. J. Buck, R. W. Williams, Alexander Hamilton, E. A. Prentis, Fairfield Osborn, L. G. Morris, Henry Bruère, Irving S. Olds.

Front row, left to right: A. B. Corey, R. W. G. Vail, E. B. Hunt, A. H. Merrit, D.D.S., P. R. Haulenbeek, L. C. Wills, W. T. Van Alstyne, S. C. Davis, C. E. Dunlap, H. T. Heald, F. B. Adams, Jr., R. M. Lloyd, Leonard Sullivan, J. V. Irwin. A. T. Martin, M.D., J. E. Parsons, B. L. Spahr.

At near end of table, not shown: J. H. G. Pell, L. E. Kimball, G. G. Michalis.

THE NEW-YORK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
QUARTERLY

July 1954

VOLUME XXXVIII NUMBER THREE

New York: 170 Central Park West

SESQUI-CENTENNIAL INTRODUCTION

by Dr. Fenwick Beekman

President of The New-York Historical Society

On the evening of May 3d, 1954, thirty-eight officers, trustees, and guests celebrated the Sesqui-Centennial of The New-York Historical Society at a dinner at the Union Club. In introducing Dr. Grayson L. Kirk, President of Columbia University, Dr. Fenwick Beekman, President of the Society, said:

PRESIDENT KIRK, distinguished guests and fellow trustees: I welcome you this evening to the opening event of our Sesqui-Centennial celebrations.

During the one hundred and fifty years since The New-York Historical Society was founded, the city has grown from a small local community of 75,000 individuals into the great metropolitan center of business and finance that we find today. There is little left of the life of that time in the great cluster of towering buildings of lower Manhattan which have replaced that early city. It is impossible for one to envisage the quiet community in

which John Pintard, the Founder of our Society, resided on its northern outskirts at 24 Duane Street. Of the institutions of that day which still survive, only St. Paul's Chapel remains in its original building. The present edifice of Trinity was erected some years later on the site of the original church of 1698. Columbia College, the Society's elder sister by fifty years, was on Murray Street, the New York Society Library on Nassau Street, and the New York Hospital, which had opened its doors less than thirty-five years previously, occupied a plot formerly a part of Rutger's farm on Duane Street. All of these institutions have expanded since that day, both in importance and service to the people of the City, State, and nation.

The first meeting of the founders of The New-York Historical Society was held at the City Hall on Wall Street on November 20th, 1804. The present handsome building in which the City fathers meet was under construction at this time.

The Historical Society was, for many years, approximately until the middle of the last century, the only public museum in the city. Because of this it became the custodian and exhibitor of numerous historical objects unrelated to America. Among them was a fine collection of Egyptian antiquities (the earliest of any importance to be brought to our shores), Central American archeological items, and two rich collections of paintings by old masters. The public was, in consequence, misled and confused as to the purposes of the Society, and there was criticism. Fortunately, this misunderstanding has been corrected during the last ten years by transferring much of this rare and valuable material to other institutions, more appropriately equipped for its exhibition. We have in consequence regained much of the esteem as a museum of early Americana which had been lost.

Today, after one hundred and fifty years of vicissitudes, I can report that the Society is in fortunate circumstances: owning a fine building with additional land on which to expand, sufficient endowment to provide for a modest educational program, a fine museum collection illustrating the life in early America and es-

pecially in New York City, a rare collection of American Colonial and later portraits and galleries of other paintings by well-known artists. The Society also has what is said to be one of the five leading libraries of Americana, particularly rich in its collections of original manuscripts, early newspapers, rare books, maps and prints. The publications of the Society are known by all students of American History and the *Quarterly* holds an unique position among magazines of its type, because of its scholarly contents and attractive format.

Beyond all this, the Society has devoted friends who have been most generous in their gifts. Contributions to the endowment have allowed the Society to carry on its functions without making special appeals to the public or calling on the City for aid. We hope that this may continue so that our building can be enlarged and the services to the public expanded.

The number of gifts to the library, museum, and picture galleries increases each year, making a greater need for enlarging the physical facilities of the plant.

Gentlemen: I have presented only a brief and incomplete sketch of the Society's past. You may soon have, however, a full scholarly account from the pen of one who has a far greater knowledge of history than I: our Director.

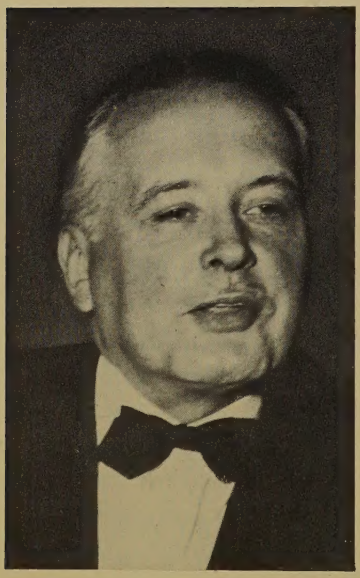
President Kirk: The New-York Historical Society has been closely associated with Columbia College and later with Columbia University over the one hundred and fifty years of its existence and, of your thirteen predecessors in the office of President, eight have been members. It is therefore appropriate that your name, as that of a distinguished scholar and wise administrator, be added to our roll, and so I have the honor, as President of The New-York Historical Society, of handing to you this certificate of honorary membership to which you were elected, as of this date, by the Board of Trustees on November 25th, 1953.

And now, Gentlemen: President Kirk will address us on the subject of "The History of the Future."

THE HISTORY OF THE FUTURE

by Dr. Grayson L. Kirk

President of Columbia University



PRESIDENT KIRK
Making his Sesqui-Centennial Address

IT IS A GREAT pleasure this evening to have the opportunity to participate in this celebration which commemorates the Sesqui-Centennial of The New-York Historical Society. The second historical society to be founded on these shores, it has enjoyed a hundred and fifty years of distinguished service to our State and nation. Over these fruitful decades, archives have been maintained, monographs and volumes have been written, exhibitions of historically important memorabilia have been held, public lectures have been sponsored, and, by no means least, a working library has been of immense assistance to scholars whose researches have taken them into the fields marked out for itself by this Society. It is a record which may be viewed with legitimate pride by the many citizens who have given time, energy, and funds to make it possible.

It is a happy coincidence which enables this Society to mark this major milestone in its existence during the same year that my own institution is celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of its birth. The coincidence is pleasant because the two institutions have had a long record of friendly collaboration and, from the standpoint of the university, one which has been of permanent significance.

Our association together began with the founding of the Society. Of the eleven men who met in November, 1804, to draft a constitution for The New-York Historical Society, five had bachelor's degrees from Columbia or King's College. These were Egbert Benson of the class of 1765, DeWitt Clinton of the class of 1786, Dr. John Mason of the class of 1789, Anthony Bleeker of the class of 1791, and Peter Stuyvesant of the class of 1794. A sixth founder was the Reverend William Linn who had received a divinity degree from Columbia in 1789. A seventh, David Hosack, was at that time a Professor of Botany at Columbia, and an eighth, John Abeel was a Columbia Trustee, as was Dr. Mason. A ninth, the Reverend Samuel Miller, became a college trustee two years later. I should perhaps add that five of the founders had taken their first degrees at Princeton, but since three of them subsequently became connected with Columbia, the wisdom of their mature years seems to have overbalanced these youthful indiscretions.

The interest of Columbia men in the Society has been maintained continuously since its establishment. Peter Augustus Jay (1794), Gouverneur Morris (1768), Dr. John Francis (1809), and Gulian C. Verplanck (1801) were among the prominent men whose membership in the Society represented a major interest over many years. It was Jay, I believe, who founded your collection of Colonial newspapers with the gift of those which his Columbia father had left him.

Evidences of reciprocal interest are by no means lacking in this historical record. In 1817, when Nicholas Stuyvesant presented the John Singleton Copley portrait of Myles Cooper, our second president, to the Society, the Columbia Trustees requested its loan so that a copy could be made for the college. Whereupon the Society suggested that if the copy could be given to the Society, Columbia might keep the original. Since the Columbia Trustees paid twenty dollars for the copy, it was rather a favorable bargain. I would not suggest that the officers of the Society were indifferent to the value of a Copley portrait, so I can only assume that they were consciously making a generous gesture.

A hundred years ago, when Columbia revived the teaching of law which had been initiated long before by Chancellor Kent, the first lecture of Theodore Dwight, the new professor, was given at the Society building at the corner of Second Avenue and Eleventh Street. That inveterate diarist, George Templeton Strong, who was a member of the Society as well as a Columbia alumnus and trustee, recorded that "the audience was respectable" and that "many names were put down for the course." Later, for many years, beginning in 1860, our Law Course commencements were regularly held in the Historical Society auditorium, since Columbia, then as now, lacked a large meeting hall.

Strong, incidentally, was assiduous in his attendance at Society meetings but there were definite limits to his interest in the minutiae of local history. In 1851 he wrote about the "Scholars ... laboriously writing dissertations for the Historical Society on the first settlement of the township of Squankum, and consuming the midnight oil in elucidating and illustrating the highly interesting manuscript collection of letters in the possession of the Smith family supposed to have been written by Petrus Smith who died somewhere about 1650, to the great weariness and dreariness of the patient men who attend the meetings of that Association." If you feel that that is a sharp criticism, I can only refer you to Strong's recorded comments about his fellow Columbia trustees and the president of Columbia. On that basis I would conclude from internal evidence that Strong thought very highly of the Historical Society.

There is ample evidence also that Strong and his associates listened to many less confined and restricted discussions in the mid-century activities of the Society. Just a century ago he attended a Society meeting which was addressed by the historian, George Bancroft, on the subject, "The Necessity, the Reality and the Promise of the Progress of the Human Race." Even Strong ought to have felt that such a subject was amply large for a single lecture. And he must have liked it, because he recorded no derogatory comments about the speaker.

Of the more recent relations between our institutions, I need

make no extended comment because they are more familiar to all of us. I should add, however, that it was a source of much satisfaction to Columbia when the then Director of the Society, Mr. Alexander Wall, became an Associate in History at the University in 1941 and began to give a course, continued after Mr. Wall's death by Mr. Vail, on "The Resources and Methods of an American Historical Society." One can readily understand how such a course enriches the graduate curriculum of our History Department and why we are pleased to have that cooperation from the Society which has continued to make it possible.

This seems an appropriate time, also, to express to you my profound thanks and appreciation for the honor you have done me in asking me to become an Honorary Member of the Society. I am, of course, greatly pleased on personal grounds and I know I will value the future exercise of this membership most highly. But I am also pleased because it is a further indication of your wish, which we so cordially reciprocate, to keep our two institutions closely allied in all appropriate ways. May we long continue to do so.

II

An anniversary such as this is not only a time in which to look backward and to note the progress which has been made; it is also a time in which to take stock of the trends of the present and to try to look, with that timidity which is appropriate for all who are interested in history, toward the future. The sense of the desirability—even the inevitability—of progress in our national society is nearly as strong as when Bancroft spoke on it here a hundred years ago. Perhaps we have fewer illusions today about its inevitability but we still have deeply etched in our hearts that sentiment, cut into the foundation rock of the National Archives building in Washington, which says that "The Past is Prologue." Parenthetically, I have always liked the story of the Washington taxi-driver who was asked by a customer if he knew what that sentiment meant. He replied, "Sure I do. That's the government way of saying, 'You ain't seen nothing yet.'"

But however we phrase it, we are all desperately concerned about our national future in these days when our optimism is tempered by the prospect of greater and more serious problems and complexities than any which we have faced in the past. And it is interesting to speculate about what our historians may be writing a hundred years from now, as they prepare papers to celebrate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Society.

Tonight, I am not about to try to put down a series of observations which another generation may look back upon with irony or commiseration. Hindsight, it has been remarked, is always 20/20. But it is reasonable to say a few words about some of the problems which those future historians are likely to face. If I am entirely wrong about these matters, I have the refuge which is not open to all of you in this audience; I can always disclaim responsibility by saying that I am currently an administrator, formerly a political scientist, and not a professional historian at all.

A first matter of genuine concern about the work of the future historian, particularly if he works in diplomatic history, is the almost apalling increase in the sheer mass of materials which confront him. The printing presses of the world grind forth ceaselessly, pouring out a stream of books, pamphlets, newspapers, magazines. Despite the modern aids to scholarship, such as digests, reviews, abstracts, and the like, the flood of published materials increases year by year and the hapless historian a generation or two hence will have the alternative of confining his work to the history of a Squankum township or of almost endless reading and study before he can begin the scholarly tasks of selection and evaluation.

If I may offer one small contemporary illustration, I would cite an experience of the Council on Foreign Relations. Some time ago, we decided to try to arrange for the writing of the diplomatic history, from the American point of view, of the Second World War. Two extremely able and experienced historians, Professors Langer and Gleason, undertook the task and agreed to start with the year 1937. With the aid of a staff, and after expending four years of unremitting work and a very large

sum of money, they were just able to bring their analysis up to Pearl Harbor. The result can be seen in two splendid volumes, *The Challenge to Isolation* and *The Undeclared War*, but the diplomatic history of the war remains to be written.

In this field of foreign relations, and I speak of it because it is the one with which I am least unfamiliar, another facet of the historian's problem is the substantive growth of those relations and the increase of the number of persons officially concerned with them. A century ago, when this Society was already fifty years old, the total personnel of our State Department in Washington was twenty, which included the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, a Translator, a Disbursing Officer, and the clerks. By 1898, when Hay took office, there were 82 on the payroll. Even in 1923, fewer than 600 persons worked in Washington under Secretary Hughes. Three years ago, which was the last figure I had readily available, the State Department had more than 7000 employees in Washington, and more than twice that number in the field. In the time of Secretary Hughes there were already approximately a million pieces of outgoing mail a year; one can only guess what it would be today. In any event, the figure ought to be kept secret or there may be no diplomatic historians in the next generation.

The problem which confronts the future historian of our times is not entirely one of an impossibly great mountain of raw material. He will also be forced to cope with the new lacunae unknown to his professional forebears. For this, our scientists are to blame. The airplane and the telephone have made possible all these person-to-person conversations among foreign ministers and even heads of state, and the records of those confidential meetings, or those trans-Atlantic telephone conversations may be far less complete and available than in the days when the writing of notes in stately diplomatic language provided the full record for the chronicle of the future. When heads of state gather in secret conclave, a conversation over cocktails may have long-range policy significance far outrunning the formal communiqué, which is often meaningless and frequently disguised to lead

the hounds of the press off the scent. Now it is clear that this trend will not be reversed, not even by such absurd proposals as the Bricker amendment, but it will complicate the plight of the historian who may be frustrated and tantalized by the inadequacy of the official records and the conflicts in the recollections, set down in after years, or frequently not at all, by the major participants.

Parenthetically, the influence of our public opinion devices, such as television, radio and even, to a lesser degree, the press, will make it harder, not easier, to locate and identify the actual process of policy-making. No negotiations, or even so-called investigations, can be carried on in front of a television camera precisely as they would be without it. The reason is quite simple, though it seems to escape many of our fellow-citizens. Negotiation, to be successful, involves compromise, and compromise requires each party to give away something to the other in exchange for a coveted point. Frequently, demands made and concessions offered are for bargaining purposes only, but no politician in his right mind wants to make any offers of concession in front of a television camera. Consequently, this kind of "open diplomacy openly arrived at" can only have the effect, if any results are ever to be accomplished, of driving the participants into clandestine meetings of some kind or other—and the poor historian is left outside to wonder just what has happened and how.

A second major obstacle will be the difficulty of evaluating influences which bear upon policy formation. This has never been easy but I suggest that it is likely to be increasingly difficult in the future. First, as the complexity of our society increases with industrialization and urbanization, the number of groups interested in, and affected by, policy becomes constantly greater. In other words, there are far more voices raised in Washington nowadays and they are voices which clamor in conflict with each other.

Further, because the variety of conflicting interests has grown, it will be less easy for future historians to write a history of interweaving themes as if they were composing a symphony. Sixty years ago Frederick Jackson Turner could sit in the Wisconsin

Historical Society and demonstrate, to the satisfaction of a generation of historians, that the influence of the West and The Frontier provided the great key to the understanding of American history. Except at the risk of absurd oversimplification, how will the future historian find and set down his interpretative themes amid the cacophony of modern times? I am not speaking here of the vast panoramic efforts of a Spengler or a Toynbee; I refer merely to that kind of thematic interpretation which is necessary to make any history meaningful to a lay reader, and history is not written exclusively for historians. Only the Marxist has an easy answer to this problem and he solves it by making his facts fit his theory, a practice which is not unknown among non-Marxist writers and is devoutly followed by many politicians, palmists, and press-agents.

III

These technical difficulties are only a part of the picture. More important is the cultural climate in which the historians of the next generation will work. The current demands for intellectual conformity in this country are entirely unworthy of our great traditions, as they would be unworthy of the traditions of any civilized people. At a time when we need to be calm, collected and able to view problems with objectivity and perspective, we are the prey of a kind of mass hysteria which may have more dangerous implications for the future of our country than the subversive activities which purportedly have given rise to it. We are perilously close to the position which castigates all unorthodox views as "communist" or "subversive"; and that is simply a kind of intellectual totalitarianism which, if accepted, will eventually destroy all our other freedoms.

Let me be quite clear in saying that I ask for no tolerance for communists. For the first time in our history we face a foe which has developed great skill in the use of subversion as an instrument of foreign policy, and it is proper that we should be on guard against it and be prepared to take all necessary measures to protect ourselves against its effects.

But we will not protect ourselves unless we recognize that we will make the situation worse, and not better, if we rely on the screening out of all persons whose views deviate in any important way from those which are predominantly held by our fellow-citizens. Such a policy can lead only to sterility, stagnation, and a totalitarianism of our own, no matter what label it bears.

To save our country, we must continue to have a country worth saving. And this means that, while we take all necessary measures against genuine dangers, we will use all available means to protect the rights of honest, patriotic men whose views differ from our own. Only thus can we continue to have that flowering of the mind and spirit which, far more than our material resources, has been responsible for our spectacular success as a leader among nations. Now when we are stronger than at any time in our history we seem divided, afraid, and, worst of all, suspicious of each other. Let us hope that our future historians will record the frenzy of the present, and its toleration of political pirates, merely as a passing phase in our history.

In this respect, I think we may take legitimate pride in the stand almost universally taken by our universities and cultural societies. Except where administrators have been under the thumb of short-sighted public officials, the record generally has been encouraging. There has been no attempt to protect communists, but there has been no willingness to be stampeded into action against non-conformists who are not communists. Activity of this kind, on the part of organizations like yours and ours, may be of greater significance to the historians—and to the history of the future than our careful preservation of library and archival materials.

An understanding of these problems, as well as an understanding of the general framework of public policy in most other matters, requires today a level of popular education and intelligence which earlier times have not required. In the year in which the Historical Society was founded, even the American West was virtually unknown; it was in 1804, for example, that Lewis and Clark set out on their famous expedition to the Northwest. Your

founders knew nothing of Africa except the Mediterranean littoral and Cape Colony. Only one known European had crossed from the Congo to the Zambesi, and Mungo Park was just preparing for his expedition up the Niger. Virtually nothing was known of China or Japan, as contact was limited to a few coastal trading points, and the Russian mission under Rezanov which visited Japan in 1804 to try to establish diplomatic relations failed utterly. The first Protestant missionary did not even reach China until this Society was three years old. It was a world filled with unknown peoples who lived in unvisited lands, and whose activities had not the slightest influence upon our national life.

If you regard this as an exaggeration may I remind you that at the dinner given by your Society in September, 1809, one of your prominent members raised his glass and offered a toast to "A Speedy Termination of our Foreign Relations." His name, incidentally, was not McCormick but Mitchill, and he was a professor at Columbia.

Such toasts, of course, will not be drunk again by members of this or any other Society. That world has disappeared into the mists of time, and the world which has taken its place is infinitely more complicated for the citizen as well as for the historian. But amid all our problems and our anxieties, we can still cling, as did the founders of this Society, to a profound belief in the ability of education and intellectual enlightenment to guide our leaders and our citizens to wise policies. Disagreeing with Hegel, who said that "peoples and governments never have learned anything from History," we believe that a knowledge of history does give that perspective which is an indispensable basis of informed judgment.

And so, if I were drinking a toast tonight I would offer it, not to the brilliant record of a hundred and fifty years of service given by the Society to our State and nation, even though such a toast would be more than appropriate. I would ask you to drink with me to the future, when we shall have an even greater need for the services of this great organization, a future which I hope will be recorded by our historians of a century hence as one of progress and, above all, of peace.

Historical Society of New York.

SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

Soup.

Green Turtle. Spring Vegetable.

Fish.

Boiled Trout, Hollandaise Sauce. Baked Codfish, Mushroom Sauce.

Relevés.

ROAST.

Baron of Beef.
Goose, Apple Sauce.
Turkey, Giblet Sauce.
Ham, Champagne Sauce.
Spring Chickens, Larded.
Capon, Cherry Wine Sauce.
Saddle of Venison, Jelly Sauce.
Stuffed Loin of Veal, Madeira Sauce.

BOILED.

Corned Beef.
Beef Tongue.
Leg of Pork.
Turkey and Oyster.
Capons, with Pork.
Fricasseed Chicken.
Stuffed Calf's Head.
Leg of Mutton, with Peas.

Cold Ornamental Dishes.

Swan on a Pedestal.
Eels in form of Serpent.
Flying Birds on a Pedestal.
Boned Turkey, with Jelly, on Socle.
Bastion of Chickens with National Colors.
Stuffed Capon on Socle, Garnished with Vegetables.
Cake of Game on Socle, Ornamented with Aleleties and Jelly.

Side Dishes.

Escaloped Oysters.
Robin Pie, Game Sauce.
Partridges, with Sour Krout.
Lamb Fries, Fried in Butter.
Broiled Quail, Truffle Sauce.
Filets of Chicken, D'Artoise Style.
Timbale of Macaroni, Parisian Mode.
Filets of Veal, with Mashed Potatoes.
Lamb Chops, with Gardner's Sauce.
Pate Chaud, Garnished with Snipe.
Larded Filets of Bass D'Orsey's Style.
Larded Filets of Beef, with Mushrooms.
Larded Sweet Breads, with Green Peas.
Small Basket of Nouille, Garnished with Salpicon.

Cold Side Dishes.

Aspic of Filet of Trout.
Mayonnaise of Chicken.
Macedonian Vegetables.
Oyster Jelly, New York Mode.
Boned Quails, en Belle Vue.
Aspic of Cream of Chicken.
Aspic of Game, with Vegetables.
Small Bastions, Cretelet Mode.
Chaud Froid of Game, Washington Style.
Mayonnaise of Lobsters, in Bordure of Jelly.

Vegetables.

Green Corn.
Boiled Rice.
Stewed Tomatoes.
Baked Sweet Potatoes.
Cauliflowers, Cream Sauce.
Green Beans, Stewart's Sauce.
Celery.
Lettuce.
Mashed Squash.
Spinach, with Cream.
Baked Mashed Potatoes.
Green Peas, French Mode.
Horse Radish.
Boiled Potatoes.
Turnips with Milk.
Cabbage, White Sauce.
Parsnips, Fried in Batter.
Boiled Onions, Butter Sauce.

Game.

Partridges.
Black Duck.
Canvas Back Ducks.
Grey Duck.
Red Head Ducks.
Widgeons.
Brandt.
Wild Goose.
Broiled Quail.
Broad Bills.
Wild Turkey.
Broiled Robin Snipe.

Ornamental Pastry.

Flower Vases.
Modern Temple.
Venetian Mansion.
Pyramid of Liberty.
The Graces.
Temple of History.
National Pyramids.
Statues of Literature.
Gothic Tower.
Gothic Pavilion.
Turkish Pavilion.
American Temple.

Pastry.

Charlotte Russe.
Swiss Meringues.
Champagne Jelly.
French Cream Cakes.
Rum Jelly.
Bavarian Cheese.
Blanc Manger.
Jelly Russe.

Confectionery.

Macaroons.
Jelly Meringues.
Almond Cakes.
Fruit Cakes.
Kisses.
Punch Cakes.
Ladies' Fingers.
Boston Cream Cakes.

Fruit.

Ice Cream. Orange Salads. Coffee.

Astor House, *November* 20th, 1854.

ELEGANT DINNERS AND ELOQUENT DINERS

by R. W. G. Vail

THE NATIVES of New Amsterdam have always been famous for their enjoyment of oratory and ample provender, when properly washed down with a goodly beaker of Holland gin. It is therefore but natural that their descendants should also take pleasure in learning, set forth with taste and eloquence, and that they should then adjourn to a nearby hostelry to enjoy the fruits of the forest, the field, and the vine and to vie with one another in the drinking of patriotic and graceful toasts until their elocution and madeira should be exhausted. And so it is not to be wondered at that The New-York Historical Society, where the old traditions of our metropolis are piously observed, should have carried on this ancient and delightful custom and that they should plan a fitting celebration for each important anniversary. We will therefore be indulging in a praiseworthy bit of ancestor-worship if we recall a few of the occasions when our forefathers celebrated the birthday of this or that worthy person or historical event and, by so doing, catch a glimpse of a bygone day when our citizens lived graciously even though they sometimes paid for it with a touch of the gout. So that you may get the genuine flavor of the times of which we are to speak, we will now and then quote from the minutes of our Society, the diaries and letters of the participants, or from the contemporary newspapers and historical journals.

As the curtain rises on the first act of our play, James Madison is President and our former Governor, George Clinton, is Vice-President. The wars of Europe are causing us much uneasiness, we have enacted additional laws restricting our commerce with France and Great Britain, and our harbor is being fortified with newly built forts on Governor's, Bedloe's, and Ellis Islands and

another is projected at the Battery. Our people are moving steadily westward, large tracts are being taken over from the Indians in Indiana, the Territory of Illinois has been set up and Astor's American Fur Company incorporated for the exploitation of the western wilderness.

THE BI-CENTENNIAL OF THE COMING OF HUDSON

WE ARE attending a meeting of the Society in the Court Room of the old City Hall, still generally referred to as Federal Hall, on Wall Street. The date is September 4th, 1809, and we are met "to commemorate the second century since the discovery of this part of America by Captain Henry Hudson."[1] The genial and eminent attorney, William Johnson, Law Reporter of the New York Supreme Court and chairman of the Society's Standing Committee, is presiding in the absence of President Egbert Benson and the members present include many well-known citizens such as the Honorable Gouverneur Morris and, of course, City Clerk John Pintard, Founder of the Society and its Recording Secretary, from whose minutes we learn that the Reverend Doctor Samuel Miller delivered a learned and interesting discourse, illustrative of this event, before a large and respectable audience of ladies and gentlemen, among whom were His Excellency the Governor [Daniel D. Tompkins] and the Mayor [the Revolutionary hero, Colonel Marinus Willett] and Corporation of this City."[1] Dr. Miller's "Discourse, designed to commemorate the discovery of New-York by Henry Hudson," appeared, together with the narratives of Verrazano and Hudson and other documents, in the first volume of the *Collections* of the Society, published in 1811. The worthy Doctor ended his excellent oration with the pious wish: "May every successive return of our Anniversary find us more active and useful; our City more flourishing; and our State more enlightened, prosperous and happy!"

SAMUEL LATHAM MITCHILL, M.D. (1764–1831)

Crayon portrait by James Sharples (*c.* 1751–1811)

Gift of Dr. Samuel Akerly, 1816

CITY HOTEL, BROADWAY NEAR PINE STREET

Original watercolor by Charles Burton, 1830

The New-York Historical Society

THE SOCIETY'S FIRST BIG BANQUET

"AFTER the discourse the Society adjourned to the City Hotel," the ladies and most of the rest of the audience having gone home for *their* dinners, and the members and their ten invited guests (including the former Mayor and present State Senator, DeWitt Clinton, Postmaster Theodorus Bailey and the Swedish Consul, Henry Gahn) continued the events of the day with a little routine Society business including the nomination of new members, among whom were Oliver Wolcott, former Secretary of the Treasury, and Washington Irving.

At four o'clock the Society "sat down to an elegant dinner prepared by Messrs. Fay and Gibson, consisting of a variety of shell and other fish, with which our waters abound, wild pigeons and succotash (Indian corn and beans), the favorite dish of the season, with the different meats introduced into the country by the European settlers."[1] We presume that this typically American repast contained other courses, desserts and sufficient madeira to last through the list of thirty-one toasts.

That our good friends of 1809 were in no way inferior to their colonial ancestors as trenchermen is eloquently demonstrated when we remember that "the following commemorative toasts were drunk on the occasion:"[2] To Christopher Columbus; Queen Isabella; John and Sebastian Cabot; John Verrazano; Henry Hudson, "the enterprising and intrepid navigator. Though disastrous his end, yet fortunate is his renown, for the majestic river which bears his name shall render it immortal"; The Fourth of September, 1609, "The day on which Hudson landed on our shores;" and the following governors of Colony and State: Wouter Van Twiller, Peter Stuyvesant, Richard Nicolls, George Clinton; and these historians and compilers of our local voyages: William Smith, Richard Hakluyt and Samuel Purchas, William Stith, Cadwallader Colden, Samuel Smith, Jeremy Belknap and George R. Minot; The United States of America; The State of New York; The Massachusetts Historical Society,

"which set the honorable example of collecting and preserving what relates to the history of our country"; and Our Forefathers.

After the preceding regular toasts were "drank" the Governor and the Mayor retired and the more hardy clergy and laity continued with the following volunteer toasts: The Governor of the State of New York (by the Chairman), the Mayor and Corporation of the City of New York (fittingly proposed by John Pintard, the City Clerk); "The speedy termination of our foreign relations" (by the toastmaster, Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill. Commenting on this singular toast, the editor of *The New-York Evening Post* sourly observed: "The learned president [presiding officer] it seems, is for a perpetual non-intercourse with all the world. What a charming man to represent a commercial city?"[2]).

Returning to the subject of history, Colonel Williams of the United States Engineers then proposed a graceful and appropriate toast: "May our knowledge of past times teach us to enjoy the present and improve the future," and Simeon DeWitt, Washington's Surveyor General, followed with the sentiment: "May our successors, a century hence, celebrate the same event which we, this day, commemorate," which hope was most lavishly realized in 1909 by the Hudson-Fulton Celebration. The next toast was of particular interest, for Dr. David Hosack proposed that they honor "The memory of St. Nicholas. May the virtuous habits and simple manners of our Dutch ancestors be not lost in the luxuries and refinements of the present times." This was one of the earliest references to St. Nicholas as the patron saint of New Amsterdam. In the next toast Nathaniel Pendleton, one of the guests, paid a graceful tribute to Dr. Hosack when he said: "May the same virtues and the same industry continue in our land which have converted an Indian cornfield into a Botanic Garden." It is pleasant to recall that the site of Dr. Hosack's Elgin Botanical Gardens still has its beautiful flower beds which attract thousands of visitors to Rockefeller Center. There were other toasts to General Washington; to Egbert Ben-

on, President of the Society; to Dr. Miller, the speaker of the lay; and to Pierre Van Cortlandt, first Lieutenant Governor of he State. In the interest of friendly international relations, Mr. Gahn, the Swedish Consul, followed with a toast to "The mouth of the Hudson. May it soon have a sharp set of teeth to show in its

DAVID HOSACK'S ELGIN [BOTANICAL] GARDEN

Between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, 47th and 51st Streets
Drawing by Hugh Reinagle, *c.* 1812

Courtesy of The New York Public Library

defense." The harbor's defenses, then under construction, were soon so formidable that the British made no attempt to take the city when, a few years later, her fleet hovered about the outer harbor during the War of 1812. No banquet would be complete without a toast to the ladies and so Mr. Pintard closed the proceedings by proposing: "The American Fair, without whose endearing society this Western World, the rich inheritance from our enterprising Ancestors, would still be a wilderness indeed." And so ended the Society's first major celebration and its "respectable audience" retired to its several homes to digest the "elegant dinner" of wild pigeons and succotash and the memory of Henry Hudson.

SANCTE CLAUS, goed heylig Man!
Trek uwe beste Cabaert aen,
Reiy daer me'e na Amsterdam,
Van Amsterdam na 'Spanje,
Daer Appelen van Oranje,
Daer Appelen van granaten,
Die rollen door de Straaten.
SANCTE CLAUS, myn goede Vriend!
Ik heb U allen tyd gedient,
Wilt U my nu wat geven,
Ik zal U dienen alle myn Leven.

SAINT NICHOLAS, good holy man!
Put on the Tabard,* best you can,
Go, clad therewith, to Amsterdam,
From Amsterdam to Hispanje,
Where apples *bright*† of Oranje,
And likewise those *granate*‡ surnam'd,
Roll through the streets, all free unclaim'd.
SAINT NICHOLAS, my dear good friend!
To serve you ever was my end,
If you will, now, me something give,
I'll serve you ever while I live.

* Kind of jacket. † Oranges. ‡ Pomegranates.

OUR FIRST ST. NICHOLAS DAY CELEBRATION

THE following year, while our commercial troubles with France and Great Britain continued at white heat, we still had time to consider the improvement of our chief national industry—the cultivation of the soil. There was much concern over better agricultural methods, we had our first agricultural fair and began the publication of our first agricultural journal. Here at home, Fulton and Livingston were developing their steamboat monopoly and Cornelius Vanderbilt was beginning his career as a common carrier by opening a ferry between New York and Staten Island.

Remembering Dr. Hosack's toast to St. Nicholas, our Society decided to celebrate the good Saint's day by holding its annual meeting on December sixth, a custom which, with some lapses, has been continued ever since. We cannot improve on the account of the celebration which was copied into the official minutes from the pages of the *Commercial Advertiser* of December 11, 1810, and which may well have been written by Mr. Pintard:

> The New-York Historical Society having, in compliment to the original settlers of this State, selected the Festival of St. Nicholas, usually pronounced *Sancte Claus*, the tutelar Saint of the *Dutch*, for their Anniversary discourse and dinner, they accordingly, on Thursday, the 6th inst. assembled at 1 o'clock, in the North Court Room, in the City-Hall, when an excellent occasional discourse, replete with learning and instruction, was delivered by Hugh Williamson, Esq., a member, for which he received the thanks of the Society, with the request of a copy for publication. [*It appeared in the second volume of the Society's Collections in 1814 where it was called: "A discourse on the benefits of civil history" and, though it did display its author's erudition, must have been somewhat boring to his restive hearers who, as in our day, were more interested in getting on to the good Dutch food.*] At 4 P.M. the Society re-assembled at the Washington-Hotel, where a table was most sumptuously spread for them by *Kent* in his *best manner*, both as to choice

ST. NICHOLAS BROADSIDE AS ISSUED BY THE SOCIETY IN 1810

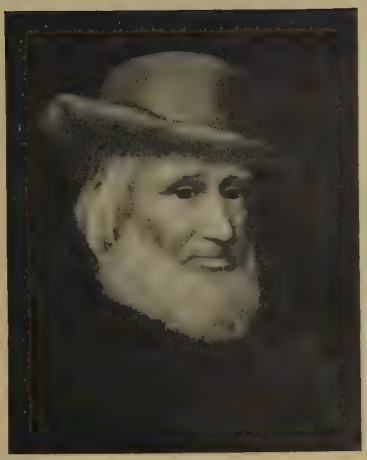
Woodcut by Alexander Anderson (1775–1870)

Commissioned by John Pintard at his own expense for the Society

wines and delicate viands. The dining-hall was decorated with an emblem of the banner, of the *once renowned Dutch Republic*, which, whil'ome, proudly waved o'er the walls of Fort Amsterdam. After dinner, amidst hilarity, jocularity, jocundity, and to crown all, fraternity, the following toasts were drank. [*There were seventeen regular toasts beginning with "Sancte Claus, goed heylig man!" and including most of our national and local worthies, with many a graceful and patriotic reference to the past. Then followed three volunteer toasts by President Benson, Second Vice-President DeWitt Clinton, and Sylvanus Miller, Esq., all duly printed in full, with copious explanatory footnotes.*]

On announcing the first toast, a Print, admirably executed by Doctor [Alexander] Anderson [the Father of American wood-engraving], for the occasion, was distributed to each member of the Society, and the gentlemen who favoured them with their company. The picture exhibits a striking likeness, *no doubt*, of St. Nicholas, A.D. 343; holding in one hand a Purse of money and in the other a Birchen Rod. In the back ground is a Bee-hive denoting *Industry*, and at his side a true fat Dutch Pug Dog the emblem of *Fidelity*. On the left of this *Goed-Heylig Man!* is a faithful representation of a warm, old-fashioned Dutch Fireside on *Sancte Claus* morning. A brilliant copper Tea-kettle, a capacious Teapot, a plate heaped with Waffles, and a Gridiron replenished with broiling Sausages, present a pleasing prospect of the simplicity and comfort of the days of yore. The very Andirons are in genuine Dutch taste—two Mynheers smoking their pipes at poor pensive puss in the corner. On either side of the Fire place hang the Annual Blue Yarn Stockings. One, replete with Toys, Oranges, Sugar plumbs and Oley cooks, the reward of filial respect and duty; the other containing, alas! nothing but a Birchen Rod to castigate the refractory and disobedient. Over the mantle piece is suspended an emblematic picture of the Good and Bad Child. The smiling countenance of the dutiful daughter, whose little lap o'erflows with all that delights and renders the *golden age* happy, is strongly contrasted by the rueful visage of the crabbid urchin doomed to wear the ominous Rod in his waist coat button-hole, on his attendance at School, an awful warning to his fellow pupils!

Beneath the quaint old woodcut by Dr. Anderson appeared in both Dutch and English the eleven-line verse which was sung to the Saint by all good Dutch children and which appears in full in Mr. A. J. Wall, Jr.'s interesting article: "St. Nicholas at the Society," in our *Quarterly* for January, 1941. The celebration of St. Nicholas Day became an annual event and again, on December 6, 1864, and once more in 1939 the old Anderson woodcut was reissued, accompanied by the words and music of the old



ALEXANDER ANDERSON, M.D. (1775–1870)
As he looked in the early 1800's and the 1860's

By John Wesley Jarvis, *c.* 1804–1806
Metropolitan Museum of Art

By an Unidentified Artist
Purchased by the Society, 1907

Dutch song, and made complete by the serving of a buffet supper in the Reading Room.

Our *Collections* for 1814 contain the St. Nicholas Day discourses of Dr. Hugh Williamson, 1810, previously mentioned; an excellent summary of the history of the New York Indians by DeWitt Clinton, 1811; a pleasant scholarly address on the geography and history of New York State by Gouverneur Morris, 1812; and "A concise and comprehensive account of the writings which illustrate the botanical history of North and South America," by Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill, 1813, which, with its 64 printed pages was more comprehensive than concise but which is of real value, being probably the most complete study of American botanical literature published up to that time. His friend John Pintard said of the author: "Altho' our Doctor has his peculiarities and is an insufferable Egoist, still he is a learned man, especially in Natural History with which he has been long and intimately conversant."[3]

LAFAYETTE JOINS THE SOCIETY

IN 1824 the Monroe Doctrine had just been put in force, Cooper had begun writing his *Leatherstocking Tales*, and James Monroe was President, but the most exciting event was the visit of the old warrior, General Lafayette, and his son, who came as the nation's guests to begin their famous whirlwind tour of the country. They arrived in New York harbor on August 15th and, that day being Sunday, it was quietly spent at the home of Vice-President Daniel D. Tompkins on Staten Island. On Monday they were conducted to New York by a great flotilla of river craft and landed at the Battery amid the cheers of thirty thousand citizens. They were then taken to the City Hall where the round of receptions, military reviews, and banquets began.

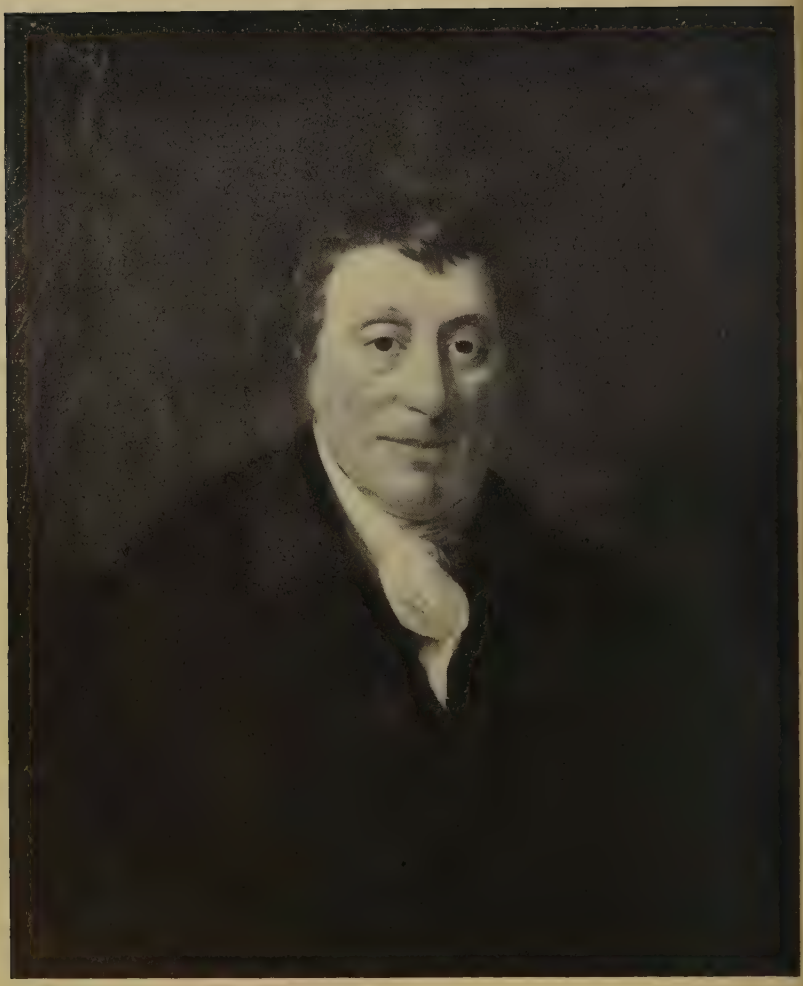
Not to be left out of the celebration, the Historical Society held a meeting on the seventeenth at which General Lafayette and his son, George Washington Lafayette, were unanimously elected Honorary Members of the Society and it was voted to present to the General a copy of the Society's *Transactions*. It was resolved that "a committee of the members be appointed to

LAFAYETTE LANDING AT CASTLE GARDEN, AUGUST 16, 1824

From *A Complete History of . . . Lafayette . . .* (N. Y.: 1826), p. 333

wait upon General Lafayette and his son George Washington Lafayette to learn when it would be agreeable to them to meet the Society for the purpose of being inducted as Honorary Members. Dr. David Hosack, Mr. [Joseph Ogden] Hoffman and Mr. [John] Anthon were appointed the committee who immediately waited upon those gentlemen and reported to the Society that the General and his Son would meet the Society tomorrow at 2 o'clock P.M."[4] The Society accordingly met at their headquarters in The New York Institution on the following day and:

> At a little after 2 o'clock General Lafayette and his Son were introduced by Dr. Hosack, the President of this Society and, the minutes of the previous meeting having been read, Dr. Hosack, the president of the Society, rose and addressed the General as follows:
>
> "General Lafayette: In compliance with the unanimous resolutions of the New-York Historical Society I have the gratification to announce to you your election as an Honorary Member of this Institution and to present to you a copy of their Transactions. In announcing to you the resolution of this Society, permit me to observe that it was the exclusive object of the formation of this Institution, to collect, preserve and record the materials appertaining to the History of our State and Country.
>
> "Among them none have been so precious as those relating to the Revolution, in which you bore an honorable and distinguished part, and to whom, under Providence, our Country is signally indebted for its Independence, and the prosperity and success that has followed in its train.
>
> "In the name of this Institution, I also tender to you their congratulations upon your safe arrival, which affords you the opportunity to witness the happy condition of that Country, in whose behalf the sword of your youth was drawn, and personally to bear you testimony to the blessings which have followed the achievements that have been accomplished by the united efforts of a Washington and his companions in arms. General, my bosom glows at the associations which these events bring to our recollection and every heart in this Assembly throbs with inexpressible emotions at the sight of the Hero who this day enters this Hall and confers a lasting Honor upon the sitting of this Society.
>
> "Long, long, Sir, may you live to enjoy the homage so justly due and spontaneously offered from the hearts of a free and grateful People for the services you have rendered to this Nation, to the World, to Liberty, and to the ever memorable establishment of the only example on earth of a pure, unmixed republican form of Government.
>
> "The same historic page that records these events will also inscribe in golden capitals the immortal names of Washington and Lafayette."



MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE (1757–1834)

Painted from life by Charles C. Ingham, New York, 1824

Gift of the New York Gallery of Fine Arts, 1858

General Lafayette thereupon rose and replied as follows:

"Sir: With the most lively gratitude I receive the honor which the Historical Society of New York have conferred by electing me one of heir members.

"Permit me also thankfully to acknowledge the flattering manner in vhich you are pleased to announce this mark of their benevolence. The Jnited States, Sir, are the first nation on the records of history, who have ounded their constitution upon an honest investigation and clear defi- iition of their natural and social rights. Nor can we doubt but that not- vithstanding, the combinations made elsewhere by despotism and :ristocracy against those sacred rights of mankind, immense majorities in)ther countries shall not in vain observe the happiness and prosperity of ı free, virtuous and enlightened people."

The President next addressed George Washington Lafayette as ollows:

"George Washington Lafayette: In accordance with the resolution of he New-York Historical Society I have also the honor to present you ı similar evidence of Membership with that conferred upon your illus- rrious Sire.

"May you, Sir, emulate his talents and his virtues and may the same ındaunted spirit which led him to offer his life at the altar of freedom ınimate the bosom of the Son in the same glorious causes."

To which the following reply was made:

"Sir, I cannot find words adequate to the feelings which I experience at his moment. Permit me to beg of you, to present to the members of this Society, the homage of my profound respect and gratitude for the ınexpected honor at this time conferred upon me."

The Society then adjourned.

BENJAMIN HAIGHT, *Recording Secretary*[4]

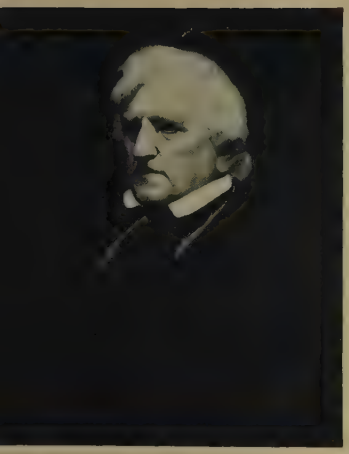
THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF WASHINGTON'S INAUGURATION

WE now come to the year 1839 with Martin Van Buren as President of the nation which is gradually recovering from the panic of 1837. Charles Goodyear has just invented the process of vulcanizing rubber so that he could make better boots and overshoes and "gum elastic galluses" but with no slightest inkling of the great industry he has founded. Professor Samuel F. B. Morse of New York University has just brought back from France the daguerreotype process, thus beginning the art of

photography in America which was eventually to lead to motion pictures and colored television. General John A. Sutter has built his fort for the protection alike of the fur-traders and the pioneers coming over the plains in their covered wagons and has thereby founded the future city of Sacramento. And Abner Doubleday, up in the village of Cooperstown, has made baseball our national sport by laying down new rules for playing the game.

But here in New York the Historical Society is concerning itself with another anniversary, the semi-centennial of the first inauguration of George Washington as President. By great good fortune the committee in charge had persuaded former President John Quincy Adams to be the speaker of the day. He arrived from Washington, where he was serving as a member of Congress, the evening before the celebration and was the guest at a large reception at the Society's rooms in the Stuyvesant Institute and then went to the home of Peter Gerard Stuyvesant, President of the Society, for a sumptuous dinner. On the morning of Tuesday, April 30, 1839, at 11 o'clock, a large number of members, guests (including representatives of the other historical societies of the country), and citizens met at the City Hotel to pay their respects to the 72-year-old orator and to the Revolutionary veterans who were the special guests of the occasion. But let us watch the proceedings of this important day through the eyes of the Society's First Vice-President, the well-known merchant and former Mayor, Philip Hone, as recorded in his famous diary, owned by our Society:

> Tuesday, April 30, 1839. *Celebration of the Historical Society*. The semi-centennial of the inauguration of Washington, which took place in this city on the 30th of April, 1789, was held this day and went off triumphantly. I was one of the committee of arrangements, and as the day approached, became extremely anxious. . . . But my fears were groundless; it could not have been better.
>
> The members of the society and invited guests assembled at the City Hotel, and walked in procession to the New Dutch Church, in Nassau Street. The church was filled on our arrival, and hundreds could not obtain admission. . . . The ceremony commenced with a prayer from Dr. [John] Knox, one of the pastors of the church, long, dull, and in-



PHILIP HONE (1780–1851)

Attributed to Daniel Huntington

Art and Prosper Guerry Funds, 1951

appropriate; to which succeeded an ode, written for the occasion by Mr. Bryant, and sung by the choir of the church to the sublime tune of Old Hundred Psalm. The ode, in my judgment, is very so-so, considering it is the production of the crack poet of New York.

Then came the oration by the venerable ex-President of the United States, John Quincy Adams, [his subject being: "The jubilee of the Constitution"]. It was in truth "well to be there." It does not often fall to the lot of any man to hear or read so masterly a production, eloquent in language, powerful in argument, refined in taste, glowing with patriotism, and frought with instruction. . . . [*Here follows a summary of the oration, which*] was given in a voice and manner eloquent and animated, but remulous and feeble. The orator occupied a little more than two hours in reading it, and skipped over many leaves. I am much mistaken if, when it comes to be read, it does not prove to be one of the most able political papers known in this country . . . . [*As printed for the Society, Adam's paper makes 136 pages and copies are still available at $2.00 a copy.*][43]

The ceremonies in the church were concluded by a truly apostolic benediction from the Rev. Dr. [Jonathan] Wainwright [of Trinity Church], delivered with all that fervor and devotional solemnity which characterizes my reverend and estimable friend.

The Dinner. Then came the tug of war. At five o'clock the subscribers to the dinner and the invited guests began to assemble at the City Hotel, and a few minutes before six the company were seated at the table. I had been dragged into this affair somewhat unwillingly, for I doubted if there was patriotic feeling enough in this busy, money-seeking, interested community to get up and carry through a thing of this sort, upon abstract principles of patriotism, without political excitement or present popular impulse. There was no danger about the ceremonies at the church. Admission cost nothing, and there would be naturally more or less curiosity to hear a gentleman whose talents all acknowledged, and whose public career had been marked, of late, with considerable eccentricity. There was no ground for apprehension on that subject. But the dinner—the dinner—there was the rub; and after inviting some twenty distinguished guests, to have failed there and presented a beggarly account of empty

PRESIDENT WASHINGTON TAKING THE OATH, FEDERAL HALL, APRIL 30, 1789

Unveiled before the Society at City Hotel exactly fifty years later

"In the course of the evening a fine transparency, representing old Federal Hall, formerly standing on the corner of Wall and Nassau streets, the scene of Washington's inauguration, was disclosed by the withdrawal of a curtain at the upper end of the hall [behind the chair of the President], and produced a brilliant effect. The figures of Washington and Chancellor Livingston, were seen in the balcony, the one laying his hand upon the book, while the other administered the oath of office, in the presence of a vast concourse of people. The painting was extremely well executed, and taking the company by surprise, drew forth long and loud applause."—NYHS, *Jubilee of the Constitution* (1839), p. 136.

Oil on fine linen, 52½ x 72 inches, at The New-York Historical Society

seats would have been mortifying indeed. Impressed with these feelings I worked tolerably hard, toward the last, to avert the consequence I apprehended; but my mind was never at ease until the hour of assembling, when I found that all was right. There was an assemblage of first-rate men, large as the saloon of the City Hotel could conveniently accommodate. There were three tables down the length of the room, each containing sixty-two places, all filled, besides the cross table at the top, at which were seated the guests, to the number of about eighteen. Mr. Stuyvesant, the president, presided; I was the first vice-president. . . .

[*Hone then listed the guests, including ex-President Adams, General*

Winfield Scott, Senator Southard of New Jersey, Governor Pennington of Massachusetts, General Morgan Lewis, Colonel John Trumbull, President Duer of Columbia College, and Commodore Claxton of the frigate Constitution]. The hall was decorated with Stuart's fine portraits of the first five Presidents, lent by Colonel George Gibbs, and Pyne's original portrait of Washington, lent by Henry Brevoort. A transparent painting of Old Federal Hall, at the head of Broad Street, where the inauguration of 1789 was conducted, was placed behind the chair of Mr. Stuyvesant, the chairman; and the curtain which covered this was twitched away when, in the course of the evening, the first allusion was made to it. [*Odes by Grenville Mellen and William Cutter were read by their authors and were followed by 13 regular and 21 volunteer toasts.*]

Hone gives a list of the thirteen regular toasts, beginning with "George Washington; his example was perfect," and ending with "Women; the best teachers and guardians of sound principles." Old J. Q. Adams responded to the third toast, "The orator of the day," in what Hone calls "a touching and eloquent speech." After the regular speeches were over, Mr. Stuyvesant called upon Hone for a volunteer toast, and the diarist made a short address, in which he "took occasion to pass a compliment upon the veteran Governor [Morgan] Lewis, now present, who then, as Colonel Lewis, commanded the troops who escorted the President from his lodgings to the hall." Everything went off well. "Thus ended brilliantly," Hone writes, "the day which I had anticipated with painful misgivings."

THE SOCIETY'S FORTIETH BIRTHDAY

WE ARE now at the year 1844 with John Tyler in the White House and James K. Polk about to be elected. A great migration to Oregon is under way; the Millerites are disappointed because the world did not come to an end as predicted by their founder; Joseph Smith has introduced polygamy into his domestic economy, has been murdered, and Brigham Young has taken his place as leader of the Mormons. The second Seminole war is over in Florida, the Mesabi Iron Range has been discovered in Minnesota, Morse has sent his first telegraphic message, Stuart

Perry has invented the gasoline engine without, of course, dreaming of its later potentialities, and Dr. Horace Wells has begun using laughing gas as an anaesthetic.

But the Historical Society is more concerned with the celebration of its fortieth birthday on November 20th. No wonder that the members are in a jubilant mood for, at long last, the Society is clear of debt, has a resident membership of about 320 and an adequate income of some $1,600. So they decided to celebrate.

First came the business meeting in the Society's rooms at New York University (they then called it The University of the City of New York) with Honorable Albert Gallatin in the President's chair. The distinguished guests included former President John Quincy Adams, General Almonte, the Mexican Minister (with the Mexican War lurking just around the corner), Chancellor Theodore Frelinghuysen of New York University, and delegates from the American Antiquarian Society, the American Institute, and from the historical societies of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Georgia.

After the business meeting, the guests and some 150 members of the Society adjourned at 5 o'clock to the Church of the Messiah in Broadway to listen to an oration by John Romeyn Brodhead, Historical Agent of the State of New York for the collecting of historical materials in England, France, and Holland, "which was received with loud applause." The Society had a particular interest in Brodhead's mission to Europe for they were principally responsible for the State's sending him abroad to copy the foreign documents relative to our State's history, which the State later published.

The gathering, now swelled to a total of about three hundred, then proceeded at eight o'clock across the street to the New York Hotel for the anniversary banquet. The *Tribune* reported that it was "one of the most exquisite dinners that was ever put upon any table in this country. [*The menu appeared in full in the newspaper.*] The wines were of the most delicious character that could be culled or drained or distilled from the choicest vineyards

NEW YORK HOTEL, BROADWAY EAST OF WASHINGTON SQUARE
Lithograph by Hatch & Co., N. Y. C., *c.* 1855
The New-York Historical Society

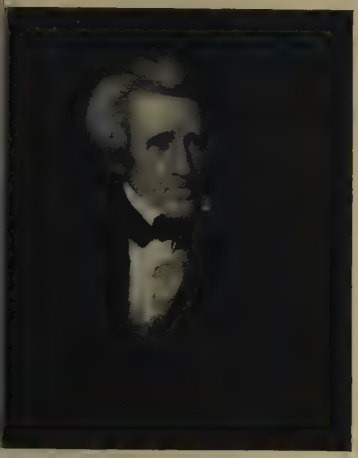
in Europe." Dodworth's band supplied the incidental music. The orators, both guests and members, were in rare form, as we know, for many of their toasts were given in full in the published proceedings,[5] and sparkled with wit, graceful compliments, and historical lore. The *Tribune* reporter observed that "such joviality, such 'refined mirth,' such intelligent glee, has seldom been seen in this city." But the food was so plentiful, the madeira, sherry, hochheimer and champagne so potent, the toasts so many and so eloquent that the banquet lasted until half past one in the morning and the scribes, at the last, were not in a position to make their notes of the proceedings as full as they had wished, so they regretfully ended their record of a beautiful day with the following apology: "The Committee of Arrangements regret their inability to present a more full Report of the Speeches delivered on the occasion. They have been obliged to rely principally upon notes taken at the time, which are frequently and necessarily imperfect." And when John Quincy Adams returned

to his room he confided his impressions of the day to his famous diary:

New York, 20th. The visitors were so numerous, and the transactions of the day so various, that they left scarcely a distinct impression upon my mind of anything. Professor [Cyrus] Mason, [D.D.] as Chairman of the committee of arrangements of the New York Historical Society, came early, and informed me of the arrangements for the day. A committee of five members of the Society, with Mr. W. Beach Lawrence, a Vice-President, came, and welcomed me to the city. . . . We dined at Bunker's [Mansion House, 39–41 Broadway] at half-past three; and, at half-past four, carriages from the Society came and took me, with Dr. John Codman, Rev. Alexander Young and Rev. George E. Ellis, to the Astor House, where we took up Mr. Leverett Saltonstall and proceeded to the library-room of the [New York] University, where the meeting of the Historical Society was held, the President, Albert Gallatin, being in the chair[6]. The numbers of the Society are unlimited, and the only business done was the admission, by an open vote, of sundry members, nominated at a previous meeting, and the nomination of sundry others, among whom was John Jacob Astor. The assembly was quite numerous, and thronged the spacious apartment. They then joined in a procession of carriages to the Church of the Messiah, of which Orville Dewey is the pastor, where an oration was delivered by John Romeyn Brodhead upon historical subjects. He has been agent of the State to collect documents relating to its history in England, France and Holland, of which agency he gave an interesting account, interspersed with several passages of beautiful eloquence. The house is large, and was well filled. The discourse was preceded by a prayer by Rev. Dr. [Thomas] De Witt, of the Reformed Dutch Church. The closing benediction was by Dr. Codman [*sic*, Rev. James Milnor, D.D. (Minutes)].

From the church, between eight and nine o'clock, the Society adjourned to the New York Hotel, where a magnificent dinner was prepared for three hundred persons. Mr. Gallatin had not gone to the church, but presided at the table for about an hour, and then retired before the speeches began. Mr. William Beach Lawrence [First Vice-President] presided the remainder of the evening. Mr. Luther Bradish, late Lieutenant-Governor of New York, toasted me ["May the evening of his life be as tranquil and happy, as its dawn and meridian have been honorable and useful."]—with a speech so fulsome that it overset all my philosophy, and I stammered a reply, the only palliation of which was its brevity. [*As a matter of fact, his response was modest, eloquent, and sensible.*] The speeches followed till some time past midnight, when I retired with my colleagues [of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Leverett] Saltonstall, [Rev. Alexander] Young and [George E.] Ellis.[7]

A MEMORIAL MEETING FOR PRESIDENT JACKSON



ANDREW JACKSON (1767–1845)
By Asher B. Durand, 1835
Gift of N. Y. Gallery of Fine Arts, 1858

IT HAS been the custom of the Society to introduce into its minutes a memorial on the death of each of its more distinguished members. Generally the only feelings expressed have been those of sincere sorrow at the passing of a valued associate but in at least one instance, of which we have a vivid record, there was a decided difference of opinion. In his day there was no more controversial personality than that of President Andrew Jackson whose spoils system had ruthlessly removed his political opponents from office to make room for those who had been loyal to the Democratic Party. Of course he was not the first to reward his political henchmen with lucrative government posts and the Whigs who ousted his Democrats in 1841 followed the same system which has been in operation from the time of Thomas Jefferson to the present. But it was only natural that the Whigs should hate Jackson and that their antagonism should have continued after his death.

And so we come to the Society's meeting of June 19, 1845, when General Prosper Montgomery Wetmore announced Jackson's death and introduced a resolution on that mournful event.[8] Among those present was that keen and sometimes tolerant observer of the passing scene, Philip Hone, the famous Whig merchant and diarist, and so we might expect that he would look on the proceedings with an amused, though partisan, eye. He does not disappoint us, for this is what we find on consulting his diary in our manuscript collection:

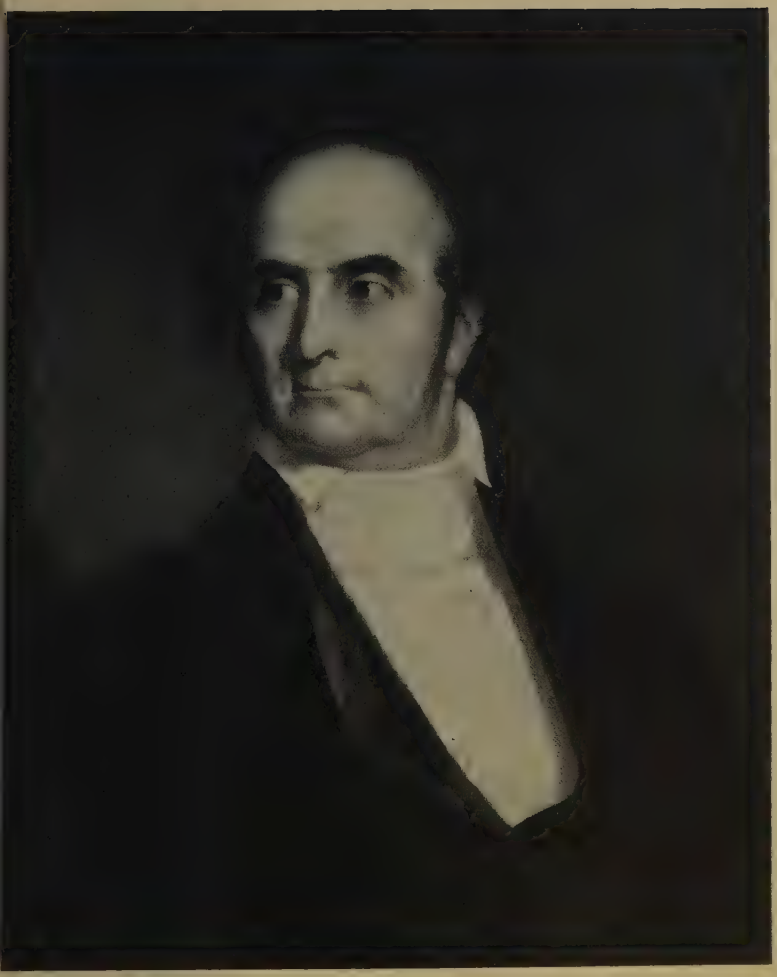
Friday, June 20, 1845. A special meeting of the Historical Society, to which I was specially invited by the excellent First Vice-President [Luther Bradish], was held last evening, the object of which was to glorify the memory of Gen. Jackson. . . . When I arrived, Mr. [Henry Rowe] Schoolcraft was reading an able memoir° on the subject of the events of the Revolutionary War, connected with the defense of Fort Stanwix by Col. Gansevoort and the death of Gen. Herkimer. . . .

When Mr. Schoolcraft had finished, Col. [*i.e.*, General Prosper Montgomery] Wetmore, a regular Loco-Foco, moved a preamble and resolutions of respect and laudation of Gen. Jackson, with a pledge of the Society to assist in his obsequies, which are to be performed on Tuesday next. These resolutions were seconded by Benjamin F. Butler [Jackson's Attorney General and Secretary of War], a warm personal and political friend of the deceased, in a speech marked with moderation and good taste, which I think nobody could object to.

Mr. Butler was followed by Daniel Webster in a judicious speech, in which praise was awarded to the military character of the ex-President, and to such acts of his political career as the orator could call into favorable notice, consistently with the opposition which his duty in public life compelled him to make to other measures of his administration. This was all well, but I should have been better pleased if Mr. Webster had left this duty to be performed by some one else. It was uphill work, not by any means a labor of love, and is very likely to be misunderstood or misrepresented. Mr. [Thomas] Fessenden [a 56-year-old local lawyer and politician] now rose and condemned the whole proceeding in a speech bold and energetic which, though it did not find favor with the assembled multitude of volunteer patriots, had, as the Dutchman said of his poetry, " a d----d sight of truth in it." He gave some home thrusts to the character of the "old hero," and avowed that as he had opposed him for thirty years, he would now oppose the resolutions if he stood alone. Charles King [Editor of the *North American* and later President of Columbia College] also objected to the proceedings as uncalled for, and wanting the sanction of precedent. The resolutions were passed with only two or three dissenting votes, although the meeting was not by any means unanimous. But it was one of those things which people do not like to vote against.

A LIGHT COLLATION FOR THE LADIES

AS WE have seen, many of the earlier addresses before the anniversary meetings of the Society were held in outside auditoriums and were followed by banquets for the members at nearby hotels. But by 1842 conditions had changed, the repasts



DANIEL WEBSTER (1782–1852)

By George P. A. Healy, 1842

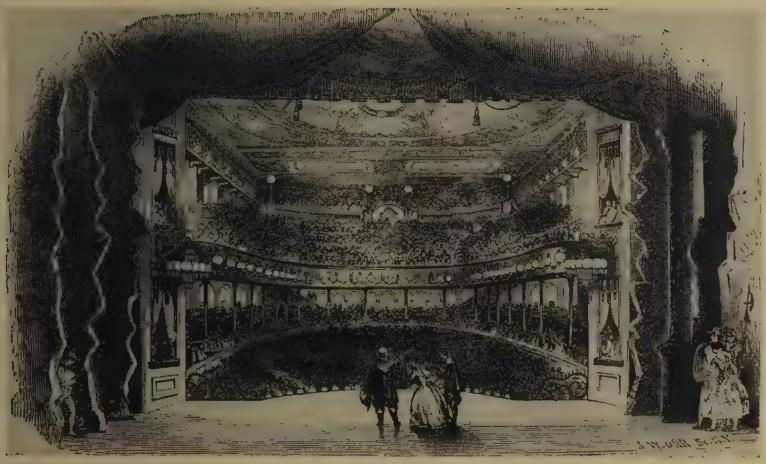
Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1888

became less sumptuous and less formal, refreshments were regularly served at the monthly meetings and we learn from the minutes of the meeting of November 17, 1846, that "Mr. H. R. Schoolcraft delivered the address[10] before the Society, in the chapel of the New York University. A large number of members and invited guests were present. . . . The Society and their guests, among whom were a large number of ladies, then partook of refreshments which had been provided in the hall of the Society."[11] The ladies had finally penetrated the iron curtain of masculinity!

OUR SEMI-CENTENNIAL IS CELEBRATED

IN THE year 1854 Perry was busy opening Japan to the outside world, the Know-Nothing Party was stirring up anti-Catholic feeling, and the slavery question was getting constantly hotter. But the Historical Society was coming of age and its age was fifty years. It had come up the hard way and had tasted the fear of serious sickness but it was now hale and hearty, owned a piece of real estate up at Second Avenue and Eleventh Street, in a respectable residential section of the city and had hopes that its building fund would soon warrant the laying of the cornerstone of a home of its own. And so its members turned with a pleasurable enthusiasm to the celebration of the Society's semi-centennial.

Invitations having been sent to all of the historical societies of the country (most of whom sent delegates) and "to many persons in this and other countries who were deemed entitled to the distinction by their connection with the cause of historical literature," the committee set a price to the members of $10.00 on the day's enjoyment. For this the member secured his own ticket to the banquet and two tickets to the "literary exercises, the subscription to be confined strictly to members of the Society." Members who did not plan to attend the dinner could get two tickets for the lecture.



INTERIOR OF NIBLO'S GARDEN THEATRE OR OPERA HOUSE

Where George Bancroft delivered our semi-centennial address, Nov. 20, 1854

Woodcut from *Gleason's Pictorial*, May 14, 1853, p. 308

And so November 20, 1854, the Society's fiftieth birthday, arrived and the members and guests met at the Society's rooms at New York University at 2 P.M. and, after the introductions were over, proceeded to Niblo's Garden Theatre at the northeast corner of Broadway and Prince Streets. The parquet was reserved for members of the Society and the stage for the guests from abroad and numerous celebrities of the city, including the President of the Society, Honorable Luther Bradish (former Lieutenant-Governor of New York), the President of Columbia College, the Chancellor of New York University, Washington Irving, William Cullen Bryant, Peter Cooper and many others, including the leading clergymen, educators, military, naval, political, and literary men of the day and representatives of the various historical societies. "The theatre was densely crowded in every part, the audience embracing an amount of intelligence, talent, eminence of character and personal worth—and female loveliness—seldom brought together. Historians, statesmen, poets, literateurs, editors, professional notabilities and official

ASTOR HOUSE (RIGHT), BROADWAY, WHERE THE SOCIETY DINED

Watercolor by Augustus Köllner, 1850

The New-York Historical Society

ignitaries were clustered there—drawn together by the mystic pell of intellectual sympathy," as the editor of the *Evening Mirror* put it. The three thousand seats of the handsome theatre vere filled when the procession of members and guests arrived to he strains of the opera *I Puritani*, played by Harvey B. Dodvorth's famous band.

After a long and eloquent prayer by Reverend Thomas DeVitt, D.D., First Vice-President of the Society, the band "performed an overture composed expressly for the occasion, which was loudly applauded," and the President arose to introduce the Honorable George Bancroft, America's greatest historian and the orator of the day, who proceeded to read, for an hour and a half, an address on "The necessity, the reality, and the promise of the progress of the human race." This was printed (with a full account of the proceedings) at length the next day in all the papers and reprinted by the Society as a 95-page pamphlet which may still be had at ten cents the copy, the edition not having been exhausted after a hundred years.

The *Times* editorial of the 21st said that the oration was "methodical in its argument, polished in its language, abounding in striking sentiments happily expressed, but somewhat too abstract and vague in its speculations to carry thorough conviction to the general mind," which was putting it mildly. Though the newspapers did not record any loud applause after the oration, the Reverend George W. Bethune, D.D., then introduced a resolution thanking Mr. Bancroft for his "able, interesting and highly instructive address," and the audience in its uneasy seats no doubt felt that it had received a generous portion of learning for its price of admission. After a benediction by Reverend William Adams, D.D., the audience was dismissed and the members and their guests proceeded down Broadway to the Astor House at the corner of Broadway and Vesey Streets.

Two hundred and thirty gentlemen sat down to "a superb dinner." "The bill of fare [*reproduced herein at page 222*] presented an infinite variety of substantials and delicacies, both in

and out of season, and the tables were laid and ornamented with the good taste which characterizes this house," said the representative of the *Tribune*. The editor of the *Evening Mirror* was even more eloquent: "Famous for the elegance and sumptuousness of its special dinners, the Astor never spread a richer or more gracefully and appropriately ornamented feast." "Grace was said by the Reverend Dr. DeWitt and the viands were attacked," as the *Times* put it.

The cloth having been removed, President Bradish proposed thirteen regular toasts, to some of which there were graceful replies by appropriate guests, many of them followed by a spirited selection by the band. There was "general applause" for Dr. Francis, "laughter and cheers" for Commodore McKeever, "loud and long continued applause" for Mr. Bancroft, and "enthusiastic applause" and "unbounded enthusiasm" for the speech of Honorable Robert C. Winthrop, former Speaker of the House and member of the United States Senate, who represented the Massachusetts Historical Society at the banquet. His "was the great speech of the evening. It was a magnificent burst of eloquence throughout, portions of it being almost drowned and lost in the tumultuous applause. Mr. Winthrop's manner of delivery was noble and impressive," as we learn from the editor of the *Evening Mirror*. After the thirteen regular toasts there were twelve more by volunteers and the company finally dispersed at half past twelve. The editor of the *Times* summed up the Society's notable birthday as follows: "The speeches at the dinner were unusually spicy and interesting. The celebration as a whole went off admirably. We trust it will arouse a deeper and more general interest than has hitherto been felt in the progress and prosperity of this most excellent and useful Society."[12]

THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

AS WE have seen, the celebration of St. Nicholas Day began in 1810 but a careful search of the records of the Society and the contemporary newspapers fails to tell us when we held our

THE FIRST STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL IN THE SOCIETY'S NEW GARDEN, 1939

first Strawberry Festival which, since June 8, 1939, the weather permitting, has taken place under the gay umbrellas and beneath the trees of our garden in June of each year. Fortunately there is a brief record in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* for June 28, 1856, p. 35, of one of these early affairs and so, until we can find an earlier date, we can at least record that "The New York Historical Society held its annual 'Strawberry Festival' in the [New York] University Building, Washington Square, June 17 [1856], Governor [Luther] Bradish in the chair. Quite a large number of the members of the Society assembled in the small chapel, where Lieutenant [I.G.] Strain, United States Navy, read a lengthy paper on the 'History and prospects of interoceanic communication by the American Isthmus' [*which was printed by the Society*]. The document was of the most interesting character, and was listened to with much attention. At the conclu-

sion of the literary exercises, the party adjourned to one of the upper rooms, where was prepared a strawberry feast. Some few speeches were here made, and the occasion was one of the most pleasant nature."

Could the idea of a Strawberry Festival for the Society have originated with Dr. David Hosack, one of our Founders and President from 1820 to 1827? Preëminent in his day for his knowledge of botany and horticulture, he not only founded the Elgin Botanical Gardens but had a large garden at his home. We are told that "Dr. Hosack must have been popular with his students [at Columbia College] for he gave them a strawberry party every summer in his own garden."[13] Might he not have originated our Strawberry Festival about 1820 and supplied the berries from his own garden?

The Minutes of the Society, which are limited to the official transactions of the meetings, do not refer to the refreshments which, at this period, followed each gathering of the members but the report of the meeting of June 5, 1866, in Henry B. Dawson's *Magazine of American History*[14] makes the following amusing report:

> The Society, on motion, resolved that when it adjourned, it would do so to meet again on Tuesday, the 19th of June,—the much-enjoyed annual "strawberry-meeting" of the Society.
>
> Mr. [John Romeyn] Brodhead [the Domestic Corresponding Secretary] thereupon moved that the Strawberry entertainment be dispensed with, and that its cost be appropriated to the Publication Fund: and Mr. Edward Bill moved, as a substitute, that none but subscribers to that Fund be allowed to taste the strawberries and cream. Neither of these propositions was seconded, and the former was received by the members of the Society with the most significant demonstrations of disapprobation.

The same magazine,[15] in reporting the meeting of June 19th, remarked that "the greater number of the members and their guests proceeded to discuss the merits of the ample supply of strawberries and cream with which the liberality of the President [Frederic De Peyster] had spread the tables in the supper-room. It was gratifying to us to witness the heartiness with which the merits of these good things were discussed by the members."

MEDAL COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE SOCIETY'S BUILDING
At Second Avenue and Eleventh Street, 1857

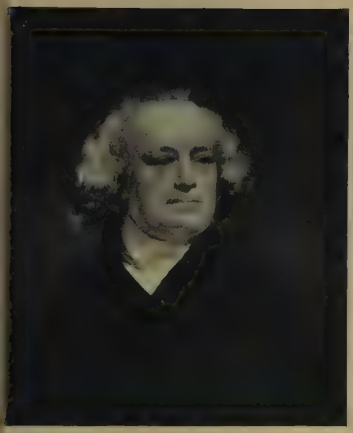
Designed by A. W. Jones, 1857
Cut and struck by F. B. Smith & Hartman

A HOUSE WARMING ON SECOND AVENUE

ON NOVEMBER 3d, 1857, The New-York Historical Society was no longer a homeless waif. It had spent over half a century in a half-dozen other people's buildings but by hard work over the years and by a few generous gifts it had finally accumulated a building fund sufficient to erect an elegant two-story and basement building at the corner of Second Avenue and Eleventh Street, in the best residential district. So, for the moment, the members were not concerned with the Democratic administration in Washington under James Buchanan, the burning slavery issue in Kansas, or even with the three-year panic which had just begun to be felt. Still less were they interested in the infant Western Union Telegraph Company whose poles were beginning to disfigure the landscape or with the fortunes of an obscure inventor named Gail Borden who had recently invented a process for making condensed milk. They were more attracted by the first issues of two new magazines, the *Atlantic* and *Harper's*, and with the generosity of their fellow member Peter Cooper whose *Institute* had just been opened.

It was indeed a thrilling moment when the Society could meet for the first time in a home of its own, with its distinguished President, Honorable Luther Bradish, in the chair. After a prayer by Reverend Thomas DeWitt, D.D., First Vice-President of the Society, the President read what the *Historical Magazine*[16] called "a highly finished brief address delivered with noticeable precision and elegance of elocution," in which he spoke of the Society's treasures, its usefulness to the public, the success of its endeavors for the erection of a new home, and gave a pledge that the Society should be "both an ornament and blessing to New York and our country." He was followed by Frederick De Peyster, Chairman of the Trustees of the Building Fund, who, with many a classical allusion, as was appropriate to the importance of such a learned gathering, recounted the story of how the money was raised and the building erected. This was followed by brief, eloquent and appreciative addresses by George Bancroft, President Charles King of Columbia, Reverend William Adams, D.D., and Reverend George W. Bethune, D.D. Then Benjamin Robert Winthrop read a letter in which he presented a most interesting and ornate chair for the use of the President of the Society, a chair made from the oak of the Walter Franklin mansion at the corner of Cherry and Pearl Streets where George Washington lived while first President of the republic. The chair was gratefully accepted and is still preserved by the Society. With a benediction by Reverend Peter I. Van Pelt, D.D., the dedication ceremony was over.[17]

The following evening there was a reception at the new building so that the members and their families might admire the structure and its treasures, tastefully displayed for the first time. There was a large audience which was addressed by Reverend Samuel Osgood, D.D., Domestic Corresponding Secretary, who was "listened to with great attention." *The Journal of Commerce*,[18] in describing the appointments of the building, mentioned the "large conversation room in the basement, where the famous chocolate, coffee and sandwiches—now become historical—will be served up to members, as usual, after the monthly



JOHN W. FRANCIS (1789–1861)
By Charles Lorring Elliott
Gift of American Art-Union, 1863

meetings." These refreshments, generally referred to as "a light collation," were still being served regularly until 1932, long after the Society had moved to its present building.[19]

Following quickly on the heels of the dedication, came the anniversary meeting on November 17th at which some forty new members were elected and about half that number nominated for final action at the next meeting. The affairs of the Society were certainly flourishing. The address of the evening, before a packed house with many standees, was delivered by Dr. John W. Francis, one of the earliest and most loyal of the Society's members, its third Librarian (1812–1818), Domestic Corresponding Secretary (1817–1818), and a member of its Standing Committee (1820–1828), who delivered one of the most interesting addresses ever given before the Society, entitled: "New York during the last half century." The *Times* reported that he "kept the audience enchanted" and Reverend Francis L. Hawks, D.D., in moving a vote of thanks to Dr. Francis for the address, which happened to have been delivered on his 68th birthday, said that it "showed, however the snows of many winters were apparent on his head, that the frost had not reached his intellect nor the ice touched his heart."[20]

LAST HONORS FOR WASHINGTON IRVING

DECEMBER 6, 1859, was a day of profound sorrow for the members of the Historical Society, for at the regular monthly meeting President Luther Bradish made the melancholy announcement:

WASHINGTON IRVING (1783–1859) IN HIS SUNNYSIDE LIBRARY

Steel engraving, 1863, after the portrait by W. H. Powell

Since our last meeting, death has again invaded the circle of our ociety, and removed from amongst us, one of our earliest, most dis-nguished, and most cherished members. After a long, brilliant and well losed life, Washington Irving has gone to his final rest! [*He died at unnyside, November 28, 1859.*] Few, among the current events of Time ave touched more profoundly the hearts of the public or moved more eeply its finer sensibilities. It was natural that this should be so for Washington Irving was not only admired for the brilliancy of his genius nd its productions, but he was beloved for his genial spirit, the amenity f his character and the beauty of his life. . . . In the universal grief at uch a loss the members of this Society deeply sympathize but in the ntimate relations of the deceased with this Society, as a loved and onored associate, we have an additional and peculiar motive for grief.[21]

A memorial resolution was then introduced by President Charles King of Columbia College, seconded by Reverend Doctor George W. Bethune, and carried unanimously after an eloquent tribute by George Bancroft and briefer remarks by Dr. John W. Francis,[21] all of these gentlemen, except Dr. Bethune, having been intimate friends of Irving. It was also voted to hold a memorial meeting on April 3d, the 76th birthday of Washington Irving. On that occasion:

The Academy of Music was crowded to its fullest capacity by one of he largest, most intelligent and appreciative audiences of both sexes that as ever assembled within its walls. . . . [On the stage,] immediately in he rear of the President's chair there was suspended a full length portrait f Washington Irving [just finished by W. H. Powell for use by Goupil & Co. of Paris in preparing an engraving, issued in 1863; it showed Irving n his study at Sunnyside, supposedly at work on the *Sketch Book*]. At ach side of the purple curtain which shrouded the portrait were ever-greens, and more to the front of the platform were three symbolical urns.[22]

In addition to the officers of the Society, the guests on the stage included Edward Everett, General Winfield Scott, George Bancroft, former Governor John Alsop King, former Governor Hamilton Fish, Governor Hall of Vermont, Colonel Peter Force, President Charles King of Columbia, Irving's friend G. C. Verplanck, John Jacob Astor, George Ticknor of Boston, and others. After introductory remarks by President Bradish and a

prayer by Dr. William Creighton, Irving's beloved pastor, the President introduced William Cullen Bryant who delivered the address of the day, an eloquent and able oration on Irving's life, writings, and much-loved personality. Bryant was followed by brief but heart-warming addresses of appreciation by Gulian C. Verplanck, Governor John Alsop King, Professor George W. Greene, Dr. William Creighton, and Edward Everett whose earnest and eloquent speech was received with "thunders of applause." After a benediction by Reverend Dr. Thomas DeWitt, the meeting adjourned.[23]

On the following evening a reception to the previous day's invited guests took place at the Society's building which was well attended in spite of the inclemency of the weather. Mr. Henry T. Tuckerman of the *Boston Transcript* described it as follows:

> The Historical Society entertained the guests who had come to the Irving celebration. Their beautiful edifice on the Second Avenue was thrown open, the lecture room serving for a dressing saloon, the library and gallery for drawing rooms, while a handsome collation was served in the refectory. The scene was most tasteful and pleasant. Among the company were eminent jurists and scholars, several state governors, one or two foreign ministers, artists, clergymen, men of letters, many of them accompanied by their families. . . . Those who chose, wandered about the gallery and examined the interesting historical portraits. . . . Among the guests were Bryant, Peter Force of Washington, J. R. Thompson of Virginia [Editor of the *Southern Literary Messenger*], Edward Everett and George Ticknor representing Boston. President Bradish, assisted by Romeyn Brodhead and George H. Moore, the affable librarian, did the honors with rare dignity and kindness; and so ended two days of charming literary intercourse and high social interest.

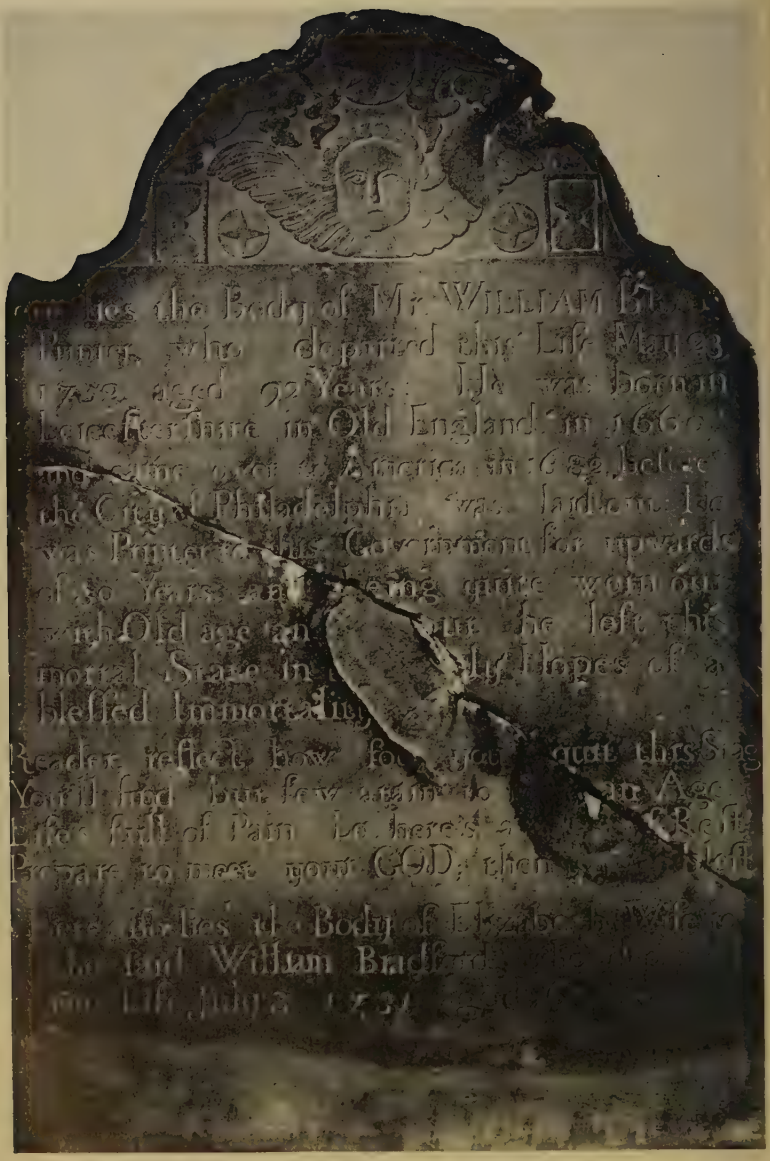
THE BI-CENTENNIAL OF WILLIAM BRADFORD

BY THE middle of the momentous year 1863 the slaves had been freed, Arizona and Idaho had become Territories, and gold rush was on at that rip-roaring frontier town, Virginia City, Nevada. The war reached its peak at the bloody slaughter at Gettysburg in July and a few days later in New York the draft riots terrified the city, causing a thousand casualties of frightened men who had feared the hazards of the battlefield but had not expected to face death on the streets of their home town.

It was a relief from the fateful events of those strenuous days for the Society to be able to turn to the celebration of a locally important birthday. May 20th was the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of William Bradford, first printer of Philadelphia and New York, and so plans were laid "to have the event commemorated with becoming effect and dignity." Bradford's quaint old tombstone in Trinity Churchyard had become damaged and obviously could not long survive the frosts of winter, so the "respected and venerable" Gulian C. Verplanck, a member of the Society and also of the Vestry of Trinity Church, as the old printer had been before him, suggested that the Church make Bradford a birthday present of a new stone. So they planned to join with our Society in an impressive ceremony.

On the afternoon of May 20th a special service with ten clergymen and a full-robed choir, and with the ministers of other denominations in attendance, took place at Trinity. After the service, a procession of clergy, choristers and the representatives of the historical societies of New York and Pennsylvania proceeded to the nearby grave of Bradford where, with appropriate ceremony, a new tombstone, given by Trinity and bearing the inscription of the original, was dedicated. The battered old original stone was given to the Society where it remains one of our chief treasures.

That evening the Society held a meeting at Cooper Institute. "Upon the platform were most of the Literati of the metropolis,



GRAVESTONE OF WILLIAM BRADFORD (1663–1752),
NEW YORK'S FIRST PRINTER

Gift of the Rector, Churchwardens, and Vestrymen of Trinity Church, 1864

and many persons eminent in military, judicial and other office. The Press both of New York and other States was represented," with the Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of Trinity and descendants of William Bradford from several States as invited guests. President Luther Bradish introduced Mr. John William Wallace of Philadelphia, a descendant of Bradford, who delivered the address of the evening on "The two hundredth birthday of William Bradford"—an hour-long oration of unusual merit which still remains our principal authority on the life of our first printer.[24]

At noon of the following day, the members of the Philadelphia delegation, "with certain strangers of distinction," were invited to the home of one of the Society's Executive Committee, Honorable George Folsom of Stuyvesant Square, where they examined his famous library and enjoyed a delightful *dejeuner*. That evening the Bradford celebration was completed with a reception at the Society's building.

> The company, which included ladies in full dress, began to arrive at about nine o'clock. The whole of the building was opened to the guests—all parts including the picture gallery and rooms being lighted. . . . A fine band of music assisted in giving variety to the exercises, and dancing occupied the junior portion of the company. [*This is the first mention we find of dancing at the Society or, in fact, any attempt to make its affairs of particular interest to young people.*]
>
> In the course of the evening it was suggested that a few words from some of the Philadelphia Delegation, as a little variation even on a festive and brilliant scene, would be acceptable to the company. The delegation was accordingly introduced from one of the galleries to the audience which was assembled in various parts of the hall, in a few informal remarks by Mr. John Romeyn Brodhead, [one of the Executive Committee] of the New York Historical Society. These were briefly responded to by Mr. Horatio Gates Jones, Chairman of the Philadelphia committee. During his remarks Mr. Jones introduced to the company, by which he was received with hearty plaudits, Mr. Robert Carr, of Philadelphia, one of the very oldest printers living; whose honour it was to have corrected proof-sheets for the immortal Washington, and who had also been in the service of Benjamin Franklin, and frequently, as a boy, while in the printing office of Franklin's grandson, Benjamin Franklin Bache, had conversed with that remarkable man. . . .
>
> Everything done or spoken was of an informal kind, such as was

suggested by the bland and exhilarating inspiration of the scene. Soon after this, supper was announced, and the whole company preceded by Governor Bradish, who had on his arm Mr. Wallace, the Orator of the preceding evening, and who were followed by the Pennsylvania Delegation and the chief officers of the New York Society, were ushered into the supper-room, where they partook of an elegant entertainment."[25]

THE BI-CENTENNIAL OF NEW YORK'S FIRST PRINTING

BUT THIS was not the last of William Bradford and his famous press, for in the year 1893, when Ford built his first car and Edison's invention of the kinetoscope heralded the beginning of the movie industry, our Society decided to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the beginning of printing in New York. Bradford, having been prosecuted but not convicted for publishing matter objectionable to the Quakers, left the City of Brotherly Love in 1693 and came to New York as Public Printer to the Colony and promptly printed "New England's spirit of persecution," prepared by George Keith and Thomas Budd and including Bradford's account of his own trial. This is probably the first piece of New York printing. The New York Public Library has two copies, one with certain words deleted with a pen. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the American Antiquarian Society have copies, both with the deletions and the latter lacking its title page. It was not until November 8, 1725, that Bradford began publishing New York's first Newspaper, the *New York Gazette*, the longest surviving files being in the New York Public Library and our library, with important early runs in the New York Society Library and at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Our Society issued a photostat edition of all known copies from 1726 to 1744.

It was a happy thought to hold our meeting on the site of the Bradford printing office where he began the publication of New York's first newspaper, a site now occupied by the New York Cotton Exchange at 60 Beaver Street. Here, on the exchange floor, the members of the Society and their guests, including representatives of the printing trades, the Grolier Club, and im-

THE

New-York Gazette

Numb. 734

From *December*, 3 to *Monday December* 10. 1739.

From the Gentleman's Magazine for the Month of June, 1739.

WE seem to have in our Day a renew'd Testimony, That when God has more than ordinary Work to do, he will raise up those who shall be equal to his Purpose; and able to execute all his Pleasure; at the Head of these allow us to place the much misrepresented Mr. *Whitefield*; the following Account of whom, *which we may defy the most malicious of his Adversaries to invalidate*, we offer to the World for Truth, in every, even the minutest Circumstance.

If ever a Minister of the Gospel endeavour'd to make *Christ Jesus* his great Example, and tread in the Steps of his immediate Followers, this excellent Person, *if we may judge by the whole of Life and Conversation*, is the Man: In Learning not excell'd, if equall'd by any; of Superior Abilities to most of his Age; and for a serious Vein of unaffected Piety, which accompanies whatever he says or does, he seems to stand alone: God only knows the Heart; but if the Tree is to be known by its Fruit, the humble, the holy, the devout Christian is sure to be seen, whenever he is present; he discovers, upon all Occasions, a thorough Knowledge of and a large Experience in spiritual Things, to a Degree much beyond what could be expected from one twice his Years; and, with a most heavenly Disposition of Mind, discovers the most ardent Affection for Virtue, as well as Religion. He appears animated by an uncommon Zeal for the Glory of God; and not any Person upon Earth can shew a greater Concern for the Good of Souls; his Views seems wholly directed to these; to advance both to his utmost is his Study and Endeavour Night and Day; 'twould be doing him great Injustice, at the same Time, to deny that he does take the utmost Pleasure in Acts of Beneficence and Mercy; in contributing to the Relief of the Poor, according to his own Ability; and in procuring them the Aid of others under their Necessities: *In a Word*, his whole Life may truely be said to be one laborious Act of Kindness, on the Behalf of the human Nature: To promote the best, the Eternal Interest of Mankind, and honour his God and Redeemer, he wholly devotes his Time and his Studies, himself, and the Interest he has with others: If this is not a primitive, pure Christianity, if here is not a real Minister of the Gospel, and true Follower of *Jesus Christ*, wherein the World shall we look for, or find either? This is the Introduced, the much abused Mr. *Whitefield*, who perhaps, has done more towards reforming a dissolute, vicious Age, and towards bringing the People over, wherever he has come from their sinful, wicked Courses, to Sobriety and Righteousness of Life, and to the Practice of Religion and Virtue, than, perhaps, half the Clergy of the Kingdom have been able to effect, in Ten Times the Number of Years.

He never meddles with Parties, or party Opinions, but Preaches *Jesus Christ*, and him Crucify'd; he preaches *like one having Authority, and not as the Scribes*, those dull Expositors whose unsavory, formal Discourses touch the Ear, but not the Heart; whilst his Strike with irresistible Force, and *by the Assistance of the Spirit of God*, as they come from the Heart, go to the Heart; awaken the Consciences of the Guilty; and rouze the Dead in Trespasses and Sins, from the Death of Sin to a Life of Righteousness.

[*To be continued.*]

From the *Philadelphia* News Paper, *November*, 29.

On Friday last the Rev. Mr. *Whitefield* arrived here with his Friends from *New-York* where he Preached Eight Times in 4 Days And on his Return hither he Preached *Elizabeth Town*, *Brunswick*, *Maiden Head*, *Trentown*, *Neshamine* and *Abington*. He has Preached here twice every Day since his arrival in the Church, to great Crowds of People, except Tuesday, when he Preached at *German Town*, from a Balcony to about 5000 People, and yesterday Afternoon, the Crowds were so great to hear his farewel Sermon, that the Church could not contain one half, where-

WILLIAM BRADFORD'S NEWSPAPER: AN EARLY COPY AT THE SOCIETY

portant clerical and lay members of the community, met on Saturday afternoon, April 8th, at one o'clock. After a prayer by Reverend Doctor Morgan Dix of Trinity Church, President John Alsop King introduced the speaker, Mr. Charlton T. Lewis, eminent New York lawyer and scholar, who delivered an inspiring address on the life of Bradford, the history of his printing office, the establishment of the first newspaper and the influence of the press. After a benediction by Reverend Doctor Talbot W. Chambers of the Collegiate Church, as the *World* reported it, "those present partook of a collation."

To commemorate the event the Society erected two bronze tablets, one at 81 Pearl Street to mark the site of Bradford's first printing office, which tells the local businessman and the visiting tourist that: "On this site William Bradford, appointed Public Printer April 10, A.D. 1693, established the first printing press in the Colony of New York. Erected by The New York Historical Society April 10th, A.D. 1893 in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the introduction of printing in New York." The second tablet was erected on the southeast corner of the New York Cotton Exchange, 60 Beaver Street, to mark the site of the publication office of the first newspaper, and it tells the clerks and stenographers out for a noon airing that: "On this site William Bradford, appointed Public Printer, April 10th, A.D. 1693, issued, November 8th, A.D. 1725, The New York Gazette, the first newspaper printed in New York. Erected by The New York Historical Society April 10th, A.D. 1893 in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the introduction of printing in New York."[25]

THE BI-CENTENNIAL OF THE COMING OF ENGLISH RULE

BY OCTOBER 12, 1864, the Civil War was drawing to a close and Lincoln was about to be elected for a second term. The Society, not forgetting the history of its own city in spite of

ıe universal preoccupation with the war, had decided to cele-rate the two-hundredth anniversary of the capture of New Netherland by the British. Its members and guests from the New ngland and other nearby State historical societies, with a sprink-ng of other men of distinction, accordingly met at seven P.M. t the Cooper Institute where, in spite of a downpour of rain, a ood-sized audience gathered. After the guests, including Peter Cooper, Alfred B. Street, the Albany poet, G. C. Verplanck, udge Charles P. Daly, David T. Valentine, Major General Charles W. Sandford, Brigadier General John Cochrane, His Excellency Senor M. Romero, and Dr. Usher Parsons, last sur-iving officer of Perry's flagship in the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812, were seated and Dr. Thomas DeWitt had offered prayer, the President, Frederic de Peyster, introduced as the peaker of the evening, Dr. John Romeyn Brodhead, who de-ivered an address on "The conquest of New Netherland" which he representative of the *Tribune* said was "exceedingly interest-ng and often elicited the applause of the audience."

After brief remarks by the ever-present and always vocal Gulian C. Verplanck and George Bancroft and a benediction by Dr. DeWitt, the meeting adjourned to the library of the Society on Second Avenue for a social gathering which was described as follows by the *Tribune* reporter:

> Here a reception was given by the members of the New-York His-torical Society to their friends, and after a pleasant interval spent in an nspection of the pictures and curiosities in the Society's Museum, the guests descended to the refectory in the basement, where an elegant repast was provided, to which ample justice was done.
>
> Several speeches were made during the course of the evening by the President, A. B. Street of Albany, P. Dawson [*i.e.*, Philip Dorsheimer, representing the Buffalo Historical Society] of Buffalo and General Cochrane. General Cochrane was very warmly received, and expressed his pleasure at the meeting, which he hoped would do something to promote that national unity of race of which the orator of the day had spoken. Referring to himself he said that he had always striven to uphold that unity, and that, although he must admit that of late he had been engaged in somewhat strange transactions, yet he hoped they would be kind enough to forget them, and instead of giving them and him a place

in the future history of New-York, give him some punch and oysters. (Cheers and laughter). He concluded by expressing his devotion to the National Union and his confidence of its ultimate preservation. The assembly shortly after dispersed, highly pleased with the evening's entertainment.[26]

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE BATTLE OF HARLEM

IN THE year 1876 the country was in the midst of a postwar depression but, in spite of that, Philadelphia was holding its famous and very successful Centennial Exposition and the whole nation was becoming history-conscious for the first time. Every historical event of 1776 was being dusted off and paraded before an admiring public, monuments and markers were being dedicated and every community with any history at all was publishing an official account of its past glories. There was a great deal of oratory and flag-waving and everyone was grateful that the Union had been preserved and proud of his country's progress during the century. As a nation we were beginning to feel our strength and to look with confidence toward the far horizons.

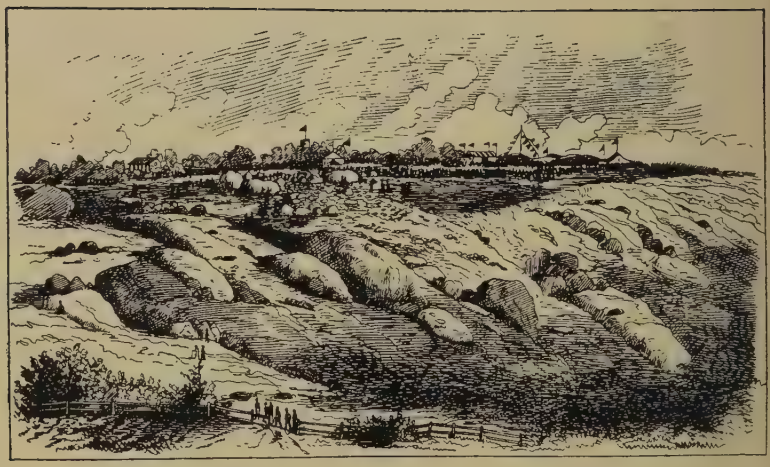
Our Society too had had its share in the nation's growth. Only recently it had secured the Nineveh Marbles, the great Abbott Collection of Egyptian Antiquities, the Bryan Collection of Christian Art, the Audubon bird watercolors, and the splendid Hawks-Niblo library of American history. It could boast of the greatest American history library in the country and the only important museum in New York City.

Though the Society had held many meetings, had heard many famous speakers, and had celebrated numerous historical events in the last eight years, it had not had a really big celebration for some time. Casting about for a local centennial event worthy of their efforts, they decided that the Battle of Harlem Plains, which had taken place on September 16, 1776, should be suitably celebrated. As battles go, this had been only an inconclusive skirmish but it was important to Washington's discouraged army to win a battle and regain its self-confidence, for it had just been defeated

From Henry P. Johnston, *The Battle of Harlem Heights* (New York: 1897), opp. p. 71

at the Battle of Long Island and escaped to the city by a miracle only to be driven into Harlem and Westchester by the experienced army of the King. Then came the engagement at Harlem Plains and they found that they could stand up to and defeat the best soldiers in the British army, and that gave Washington and his men confidence to continue the struggle. This was an event well worth remembering in this centennial year. And this is how the Historical Society celebrated the anniversary.

The site of the battle was still open country far north of the city in 1876—a fact hard to realize today, for it was bounded by the present 117th and 119th Streets, Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues,—in other words, what is now Morningside Heights at Columbia University. The festivities began with a luncheon for the invited guests and members of the Society at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, from which a procession of carriages conducted them to the battlefield. They reconvened on "the heights of Bloomingdale," the present Columbia University campus, on the crest of the hill overlooking Harlem Plains. "The ground, covered with tents, presented the appearance of an encampment, and from its



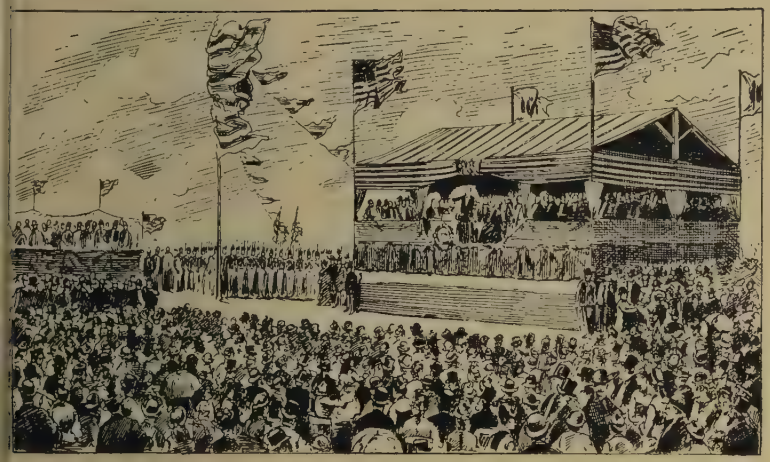
GENERAL VIEW OF THE CELEBRATION AND THE BATTLE-FIELD

From 110th to 125th Streets, on Morningside Heights, Sept. 16, 1876

From *The Daily Graphic*, Sept. 20, 1876

elevated position commanding extensive views of the North and East Rivers, was visible from a great distance, presenting a scene of rare and animated beauty."[27] "The whole place was alive with flags and gay with bunting. An immense concourse of [some 10,000] people were present. These came in carriages, on foot, by the Second, Third and Eighth Avenue cars, and by the [Ninth Avenue] Elevated and the Harlem Railroads."[28] "In front stretched the lowlands, now teeming rich with the autumnal vegitation; to the left, the low brick houses of Harlem, seeming almost a phototype of that ancient city in Holland from which it takes its name. Far in the distance the sparkling waters of Long Island Sound laved the dim shores; and, city-ward, the spires of the churches pierced the dull September day like lances."[29]

It was nearly 3:30 when "the members of the Historical Society and their guests arrived from the city in carriages, and about the same time the sounds of a military band were heard, and the Seventh Regiment came marching on up 110th Street, not



THE SOCIETY CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE BATTLE OF HARLEM

Hon. John Jay in speaker's stand, 118th St. at Amsterdam Ave., Sept. 16, 1876

From *The Daily Graphic*, Sept. 20, 1876

far from the spot where, a century before, the British troops had passed. The regiment looked splendily as it moved along. There was just a flash of sunlight needed to glint back from their bayonets, for the day was dull and sombre, but for all that the pageant was excellent. The regiment drew up on the northern slope of the hill, and the bandmen in their gay uniforms took their place on their stand. The crowd was now compact and attentive. Ladies were present in large numbers, and most of them were provided with seats."[80]

"The carriage enclosure was also full of gay equipages."[27] The martial music of the Seventh Regiment band was heard at intervals throughout the program.

A handsome, flag-decked stand had been erected for the members of the Society and their guests who included Governor Henry Lippitt of Rhode Island and his staff, Mayor W. H. Wickham and other city officials, representatives of the Army, the Clergy, and the Judiciary. After an invocation by Reverend

Doctor Morgan Dix, Rector of Trinity Church, President Frederic DePeyster, with many a reference to the military glories of Greece and to Washington's brave army of patriots, introduced the speaker of the day, the Honorable John Jay, grandson and namesake of the first Chief Justice of the United States, who delivered a learned and eloquent commemorative oration on the Battle of Harlem Plains. This address was greeted by the "vast and most respectable assemblage" with tumultuous applause. After two or three others had spoken briefly, Reverend Doctor William Adams pronounced the benediction and the celebration was over. "The whole affair was one of the most thrilling and picturesque of the many commemorations this season has drawn forth. The music, the speech, the applause, the flowers, the green sward, the ripe foliage, the waving handkerchiefs, the equipages, the superb toilets, the gay military trappings, and the beautiful national flags waving over all, made up a scene not soon to be forgotten."[28]

But there was an unfortunate postscript to this pleasant celebration, for the irascible Erastus C. Benedict, LL.D., Chancellor of the University of the State of New York, and the grandson of a Chaplain who took part in the battle, was out of town at the time of the anniversary and could not then put forth his arguments that this was *not* the Battle of Harlem *Plains* at all but the Battle of Harlem *Heights* and that the principal action took place somewhat farther north, on the high ground south of the Roger Morris or Jumel Mansion on Harlem Heights.

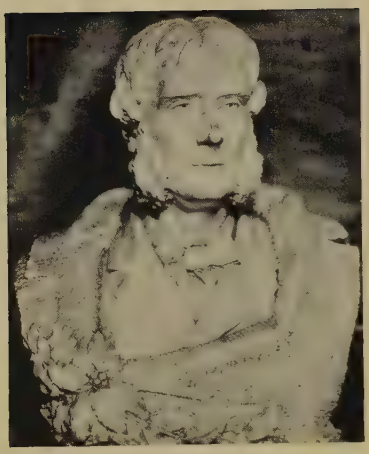
It seems that he had supplied Mrs. Martha J. Lamb with the *correct* account of the battle for use in her soon-to-be-published history of New York City and that she had called it the Battle of Harlem *Heights*. To this John Austin Stevens, the Society's Librarian, who had dreamed up the celebration in the first place and had been chairman of the Society's Committee on Celebrations, strenuously objected. But, as Mr. Benedict put it, "Mr. Stevens has gone awkwardly out of his way to throw discredit on the history of Mrs. Lamb, now nearly finished, and to say that I

am justly chargeable with leading her into topographical and historical error." He continues: "I shall now review all the errors of Mr. Stevens," which he does, to his own satisfaction, with great relish and in great detail. Of course he was given a hearing by the fair-minded members of the Society and delivered *his* version of the battle, which neither he nor Mr. Stevens had witnessed, before one of the regular meetings on February 5, 1878. It was an excellent paper[31] and did include new material. But since none of the half-dozen historians of the battle agree, the present-day reader can read them all and take his choice. Alvin F. Harlow solves the problem neatly by simply calling it the Battle of Harlem.[32]

A NATION'S TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT, author of *Thanatopsis*, *To a Waterfowl*, *The Forest Hymn*, and the greatest writer of American poetry of nature; co-editor and co-owner of the *New York Evening Post;* statesman and abolitionist; and, we may add with due humility, Foreign Corresponding Secretary of our Society in 1871 and 1872 and its Vice-President from 1873 until his death on June 12, 1878, was honored by the Society by a great memorial meeting at the Academy of Music on the evening of December 30th. "The largest and most distinguished audience ever assembled by the Society" included President Rutherford B. Hayes and his Cabinet who "were seated upon the platform, together with some three or four hundred representative men of the nation, in church and state, in law, politics, commerce and letters."[32a]

The ceremonies were opened with prayer by the Reverend Doctor William Adams, President of Union Theological Seminary, after which President Frederic DePeyster introduced Mr. George William Curtis, distinguished author, editor of "The Easy Chair" in *Harper's Magazine*, editor of *Harper's Weekly*, and Chancellor of the University of the State of New York, who



GEORGE W. CURTIS (1824–1892)
Bust by J. Q. A. Ward
Gift of Bridgham Curtis, 1917

WILLIAM C. BRYANT (1794–1878)
Bust by John Rogers, 1892
Gift of the artist's daughter, 1936

delivered a discourse on *The Life, Character and Writings of William Cullen Bryant*. The meeting closed with a benediction by the Right Reverend Horatio Potter, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Curch of New York.

"A more impressive and honorable tribute was never paid to the memory of a private man than that which was paid to Mr. Bryant Monday evening by the citizens of New York; we ought to say, perhaps, considering that the highest dignitaries of the federal government took part in it, by the citizens of the United States. The Academy of Music was crowded by an audience which represented whatever is distinguished in politics, in law, in literature and in arms, both in our local and our national annals. The foremost of our statesmen, our judges, our clergymen, our writers, our generals and our eminent citizens were present, and listened to the touching and beautiful words of the accomplished orator with profound sympathy and approval. Mr. Curtis's address was long, but the immense audience was so deeply interested in his fine characterizations, and so entranced by his musical

nd eloquent utterance of them, that not a sentence was lost or nheeded.[32b]

"The address of Mr. George William Curtis . . . is something nore than an eloquent and becoming tribute to the memory of our first poet; it is itself an addition to American literature. It vill be read with admiration alike for the justness of its comments, the dignity of its tone, and the felicity of its style, and he manly sympathy which shines through its vivid and graceful phrases. Set eulogies are not often of much value; but last night we listened to praise that was glowing without being overstrained, and to criticism that was cordial with discrimination."[32c]

"When Cooper died, the restless city paused to hear Bryant's words of praise and friendship. When Irving followed Cooper, all hearts turned to Bryant, and it was before this Society and in this place that he told the story of Irving's life. Now Bryant has followed Cooper and Irving, the last of that early triumvirate of American literature."[32d]

The distinguished company which listened to this eloquent tribute included President and Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes, Vice-President William A. Wheeler, Secretary of State William M. Evarts and his predecessor in office, Hamilton Fish, Attorney General Charles Devens, General William T. Sherman, Major General W. S. Hancock, former Governors John T. Hoffman, Edwin D. Morgan, and Samuel J. Tilden (who had lost the Presidency to Hayes though he had a larger popular vote), Peter Cooper, Thurlow Weed, Cyrus W. Field, Cornelius and William H. Vanderbilt, and a host of others. Mr. Bryant's family was represented by Miss Julia Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Parke Godwin and their children, Mr. Bryant's only descendants.

"After the conclusion of the exercises at the Academy, the President of the Society, Frederic DePeyster, gave an elegant reception to the President and Mrs. Hayes, at his residence, 76 University Place, for which cards of invitation had been issued, and where a sumptuous banquet was served to over two hundred guests of distinction."[32e]

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE EVACUATION OF NEW YORK BY THE BRITISH

FROM 1876 to 1883 a lot of water had flowed down the Hudson and the country had made a lot of progress. A thick-set, shaggy eyebrowed, deaf inventor who worked hard, said little and slept less had given us the phonograph, the incandescent lamp and electrically lighted streets, homes, and shops. The country had its first telephone exchange, its first five-and-dime store, and standard time. Here in New York we could gaze with awe at Cleopatra's Needle and read about Mrs. Vanderbilt's famous fancy dress ball, walk across Brooklyn Bridge, and scan the pungent pages of the *World*, now under Joseph Pulitzer's vigorous editorship. And on November 18, 1879, The New-York Historical Society had celebrated its 75th birthday with appropriate oratory.

Our Society, always mindful of significant anniversaries, had suggested to the city fathers that it would be a fine idea to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the evacuation of New York by the British on November 25, 1783. The idea met with instant response and, with the aid of the Society, was soon being carried out. Since the 25th fell on a Sunday, the celebration took place on the following day, with a civic and military parade of some 40,000 men in line, a river procession of about 300 boats, and a Chamber of Commerce banquet at Delmonico's with President Arthur and his Cabinet, seven of the original thirteen States represented by their Governors, and the principal oration by Joseph H. Choate with responses to toasts by President Arthur, Governor Grover Cleveland, Reverend Henry Ward Beecher, and many others. One of the main events of the day was the dedication of J. Q. A. Ward's statue of Washington on the steps of the Sub-Treasury with the principal speech by George William Curtis, the unveiling and presentation of the statue to the nation by Governor Grover Cleveland and its acceptance by President Chester A. Arthur—all in a steady downpour of rain which lasted

HARVEY B. DODWORTH (1821–1891), THE BAND LEADER
who entertained at Society functions for a generation or more

Painted from life by Charles W. Jenkins, *c.* 1857

Purchased by the Society, 1950

all day but did not dampen the ardor of the participants or of the vast throng of hundreds of thousands of spectators.[33]

On the evening of the 27th our Society celebrated the centennial of Evacuation Day and its own 79th anniversary with a great meeting at the Academy of Music at which President Augustus Schell presided and introduced Honorable John Jay who delivered a scholarly and most interesting address on "The peace negotiations of 1783," which was enthusiastically received. The stage was crowded with governors, military and civil officers, prominent citizens and officials of the Society, while Dodworth's Band, as usual, furnished the incidental music.[34]

A TURTLE FEAST AT FRAUNCES TAVERN

THE WIND-UP of the Evacuation Day celebration, which in some ways was the most delightful event of all, was the supper at Fraunces Tavern on the evening of December 5th. This supper, which was the bright idea of the Society's ingenious and imaginative former Librarian and Executive Committee member, John Austin Stevens, was arranged to celebrate the centennial of Washington's farewell to his officers in the very Long Room where the present supper was spread.

That evening at five, some sixty of the members of the Historical Society and others, nearly all of them descended from Revolutionary officers, assembled in the Long Room of the tavern for a "turtle feast." A portrait of Washington was festooned with the flag of the Revolution on one side and the national flag on the other. Sprays of holly with its red berries gave a holiday air to the decorations. John Austin Stevens presided over the dinner which consisted of oldfashioned turtle soup, bread and cheese, ale, punch, and sherry. The ale was served in toby jugs and each guest was provided with a long clay churchwarden's pipe and a plentiful supply of tobacco.[35] Let us watch the hilarious evening through the eyes of the *Tribune* and *Sun* reporters:

FRAUNCES TAVERN, BROAD & PEARL STREETS, AFTER RESTORATION

Where the Society's celebration of the centennial of Washington's farewell to his officers, with a supper, Dec. 5, 1883, resulted in the organization of the Sons of the Revolution who purchased and restored the building, 1904–1907.

Photograph, 1909, at The New-York Historical Society

Everything that savored of formality was abandoned. Long clay pipes only were used and when the dense volume of smoke which they emitted had gathered like a halo around the heads of those present and had rendered the sharp outlines of their features less distinct than when seen in broad daylight, it did not require a convulsive effort of the imagination to picture the revellers as veritable old-time New-Yorkers. The illusion was still further heightened by the presence of a fifer and drummer in Continental uniform, in addition to a string band which played old fashioned airs.

There were thirteen toasts and they were responded to by music, the selection of airs apparently being left entirely to the taste and fancy of the musicians. At first this go-as-you-please arrangement worked well. "The Star Spangled Banner" following the toast of "General Washington" and "The Marseillaise" that of "Lafayette," "Hail to the Chief" that of "George Clinton" and a long roll of drums followed "Our Fallen Heroes," but when "The Wearing of the Green" was given in response to "The Glorious Revolution of America," some little surprise was manifested.

George W. H. Houghton read an original ballad: *Farewell, General;*

WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL TO HIS OFFICERS, DEC. 4, 1783
In the Long Room of Fraunces Tavern, New York City
Lithograph after the painting by Henry Alexander Ogden

the "Continental March" was gallantly sung by John Austin Stevens; General George H. Sharpe sang "The Constitution and the Guerriere"; Major George W. McLean also sang a song and the whole company joined in "Marching through Georgia" and, while the others rested from their labors, General H. A. Barnum spoke eulogistically of Washington and Grant as the soldiers of the Republic.[30]

"A very enjoyable and memorable evening was passed which resulted in the formal organization in the 'Long Room' of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, which had its inception at a meeting held at the New York Historical Society on February 22, 1876." Fraunces Tavern was purchased by the "Sons" in 1904, faithfully restored, and opened as their headquarters and a public museum and restaurant in 1907. The old tavern "has never lost its name and has been open con-

nuously as a house of public entertainment since 1762." A fine eal may still be enjoyed in its restaurant.[37]

HE CENTENNIAL OF WASHINGTON'S INAUGURATION

ONCE AGAIN the Historical Society had a bright idea which it passed along to the city fathers. Why not cele- rate the hundredth anniversary of President Washington's in- guration which took place on the balcony of Federal Hall on Vall Street on April 30, 1789? A city-wide celebration was romptly planned for April 29 to May 1, 1889, under the di- ection of a Citizens Committee on which the Society was largely epresented and with our President, John Alsop King, as chair- an of one of the subcommittees. It turned out to be the most laborate and extensive celebration ever held in the city up to that ime and included a naval parade to meet President Benjamin Harrison and many of his official family who came by water, a eception at City Hall, a ball at the Metropolitan Opera House, ervices at St. Paul's Chapel where Washington had worshipped, n address by Chauncey M. Depew on the steps of the Sub- Treasury, a military parade of nearly fifty thousand troops, banquet at the Metropolitan Opera House, special services n the leading churches, an open-air concert in Madison Square y two thousand singers from the city's German singing so- ieties, fireworks displays in various parts of the city, and a ivic and industrial parade. Enormous crowds came from out of own and it was estimated that a million and a half people saw arious parts of the elaborate program. A temporary wooden Washington Arch, designed by Stanford White, was erected on Washington Square and replaced in 1895 by the present arch commemorating the first inauguration of our first President. A arge, fully illustrated history of the Washington centennial was published in 1892, to which the staff and members of the Society contributed several chapters, many illustrations, and an elaborate ndex.[38]

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE SOCIETY

IN THE fifteen years between 1889 and 1904 our nation had passed through an uneasy adolescence and was just coming of age. We had weathered the disastrous panic which began in 1893, had gallantly won the badly managed Spanish-American War, had done our share to put down the Boxer Rebellion, and had watched with concern the progress of the Boer War and the beginning of the Russo-Japanese War. The popular Cleveland had been President, colorless McKinley had been shot at Buffalo, and the strenuous Teddy Roosevelt was in the White House. "Malefactors of great wealth" were being legislated against, there was much labor unrest, and the New York City government had been reformed again.

American initiative and inventive genius had given us the United Fruit Company, the Sugar Trust, long-distance telephones, movies, the Ford car and the airplane, though all of them were still in their infancy. We were distressed by the Galveston Flood, excited by the Klondike Gold Rush, and watched with mixed feelings the spectacular activities of Carrie Nation, Billy Sunday, yellow journalism, the Muckrakers and Nature Fakirs. Nearer home, Ward McAllister had invented the Four Hundred, the cornerstone of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine had been laid, Grant's Tomb and the Hall of Fame dedicated, the first auto show held, the first subway opened and, on November 20, 1904, The New-York Historical Society was a hundred years old.

Though we had noticed our intervening birthdays with some pride and oratory, there had not been a really big party since our fiftieth anniversary banquet in 1854. So we set about it to celebrate our centennial in a manner fitting to the occasion. The grand banquet room of Delmonico's at Fifth Avenue and 44th Street was flag-draped and flower-bedecked, while oil portraits of the founder, most of the presidents and of our patron, Henry Dexter, looked down with approval on the gay assemblage as the guests took their seats at the tables to the strains of Lander's orchestra. In addition to over 160 of the men of the Society, there

DELMONICO'S, FIFTH AVENUE AT 44TH STREET, *c.* 1904

Photograph at The New-York Historical Society

were some eighty guests, including Mr. Morris K. Jesup, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Dr. James H. Canfield, Librarian of Columbia University, the presidents of the Massachusetts and Connecticut historical societies and of the various local patriotic and hereditary societies.

After an invocation by Reverend Edward Benton Coe, D.D., of the Collegiate Church and the sumptuous eight-course dinner had been enjoyed, the coffee and cigars were served and some two dozen ladies, members or guests of the Society, were escorted to the places reserved for them in the balcony. As the representative of the *Tribune* explained: "Owing to the Society's recent decision, the women members and guests were not permitted to dine with the men, on the ground of the sterner sex's wish to smoke."[39]

President Samuel Verplanck Hoffman then arose and proposed that a silent toast be drunk standing to the memory of the Founders and Benefactors of the Society. He then briefly sketched the history of the Society and told how, two years before, the foundations for the new building on Central Park West had been constructed, the cornerstone laid on November 17, 1903, and that a week later Mr. Henry Dexter (1813–1910), founder of the American News Company and a member of our Society since 1863, had offered $150,000 in cash in addition to the necessary granite for the facing of the front of the new building (a total later raised to $250,000, including $195,000 cash and $55,000 worth of granite), the gift to be a memorial to the donor's son, Mr. Orrando Perry Dexter, who had recently died. This good news, which assured the completion of the central portion of the building, was greeted with great enthusiasm and warm thanks to the donor whose name had not been previously announced.

Since President Theodore Roosevelt, Governor Benjamin B. Odell, Jr., and Mayor George B. McClellan could not be present, as they had planned to be, to respond to the toasts to the United States, the State of New York, and the City of New York, respectively, Honorable Charles V. Fornes, President of the Board of Aldermen, replied to the latter toast and was greeted with long and continued applause. The next toast: "Our Sister Societies" was responded to by Mr. Charles Francis Adams, President of the Massachusetts Historical Society, who pointed out that he was the third generation of the Adams family in direct descent to have a place on the program of the Society's celebrations. He continued with a number of delightful anecdotes regarding the famous presidents and members of his own Society and ended with some wholesome advice on the aims of a historical society, emphasizing the importance of selective collecting and proper cataloguing of the materials of such a library. He was heartily applauded for his excellent address.

The Right Reverend Henry C. Potter, D.D., was to have

THE SOCIETY'S CENTENNIAL MEDAL, 1804–1904
Designed by Victor D. Brenner, 1904

responded to the toast: "America of the future," but illness kept him at home and so Dr. James H. Canfield, Librarian of Columbia University, was then asked to reply to the toast: "Popular education." His speech was enthusiastically received and was followed by that of Mr. Robert H. Kelby, Librarian of our Society, in which he paid tribute to his predecessors in office, sketched the growth of the collections and of the Society's scholarly usefulness and proposed the same toast that was received with enthusiasm at the semi-centennial anniversary of the Society: "The Twentieth of November,—the birthday of The New-York Historical Society; rich in its memories of the past and in its hopes of the future, may each return of this Anniversary find the Society more abounding in its means, more active in its operations, and more extended in its usefulness."

After the applause had subsided, Mr. Frederic Wendell Jackson, First Vice-President of the Society, arose and, with a warm tribute to the excellent record of Mr. Kelby as Librarian of the Society, presented him with a copy of the Centennial Medal in gold,[40] "as a testimonial of our esteem and affection." Though Mr. Jackson did not say so, the securing of Mr. Dexter's splendid gift was largely the work of Mr. Kelby, so the presentation of

HENRY DEXTER (1813–1910)
By C. Ayer Whipple, 1903
Gift of the subject, 1906

ROBERT H. KELBY (1847–1927)
By Irving R. Wiles, 1918
The Louis Durr Fund, 1918

the medal was a well-merited tribute to his zeal in behalf of the Society.[41] At the Society's meeting on December 6th, Mr. Dexter was also voted a copy of the Centennial Medal in gold, was made a Patron of the Society, and it was voted that he be invited to sit for his portrait, to be added to the gallery of Founders and Benefactors of the Society.[42]

Following the presentation of the gold medal to Mr. Kelby, the President introduced Mr. Smith E. Lane, the only living member of the Society who had attended the Semi-Centennial banquet in 1854, whose most interesting reminiscences of sixty years of association with the Society were greeted with "long and continued applause."[43] And so ended the delightful and appropriate celebration of the Society's Centennial.[44]

FIRST MEETING IN OUR PRESENT BUILDING

THOUGH only the basement and first floors were finished, the Society met for the first time in its new building on its 102d anniversary, November 20, 1906, the address of the evening

on "Proportions and values in American history" being given by Professor William M. Sloane of Columbia University. President Hoffman and Reverend George R. Van De Water, D.D., paid eloquent tribute to the munificence of Mr. Dexter, whose gift had made the completion of the central portion of the new building possible, Mr. Dexter, realizing that, at the age of 93, he was living on borrowed time, had become impatient at the delay in completing and occupying the building and so was not present at this first meeting within its walls.

His impatience, which had unfortunately boiled over into the newspapers, was somewhat allayed when the Society met again in the new building on June 4, 1907, with Mr. Dexter as the guest of honor. Completely friendly relations having been restored, Mr. Dexter showed his continued interest in the new building in 1908 by supplying the funds for the handsome entrance to the Auditorium and for the completion of the main exhibition hall on the second floor, which the Society promptly named in his honor. The tremendous task of moving to the new building began on August 20, 1908, and the building was opened on December 15th, to everyone's immense satisfaction, especially Mr. Dexter's. The completion of the main part of the building came just in the nick of time to make it possible for the Society to take an important part in the City's greatest effort at historical commemoration, the Hudson-Fulton Celebration of 1909.

THE HUDSON-FULTON CELEBRATION

THIS elaborate celebration, lasting from September 25 to October 11, 1909, commemorated the 300th anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River by Henry Hudson and the 100th anniversary of the first successful use of steam for marine navigation on that river by Robert Fulton. The towns of the Hudson valley and the other boroughs of New York had their local celebrations but the principal events took place on Manhattan Island and in its surrounding waters. There was a huge naval

ROBERT FULTON (1765–1815)
Miniature by himself after the portrait by Elizabeth Emmett, 1814
Gift of Samuel V. Hoffman, 1924

parade featuring replicas of Hudson's *Half Moon* and Fulton's *Clermont*, and including our own Atlantic Fleet and battleships from several of the great powers; there were enormous military and historical parades and an elaborate evening street carnival, the two latter made up of magnificent floats; there were special exhibits in the leading libraries and museums, banquets, sports, fireworks, historical lectures, music festivals, dedication of monuments and, most thrilling of all, on September 29 and October 4, Wilbur Wright made four flights in his airplane—the first public and non-official flights ever made in America—for which he was paid $15,000. On the first flight he circled Governor's Island and returned to his flying field there; in the second (which the present writer saw from a ferryboat below) he circled the Statue of Liberty, passing over the ocean liner *Lusitania*, and returned. That afternoon he went up again for a few minutes but on October fourth Wright outdid himself when he took his life in his hands and flew up the river to Grant's tomb and returned safely after a flight of about 20 miles at an average speed of 36 miles an hour in "one of the most perilous air flights made up to that time. No one else in America had ever dared fly over water before."[45] He really needed that $15,000!

As early as 1905 the Society had decided to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery of his river and, the Governor having, in the meantime, appointed a Committee of Citizens for a Hudson-Fulton Celebration, we, the following year, offered our services to the State and the City to assist in the

plans. President Hoffman and other members of the Society served on the important "Committee in Charge of Scientific and Historical Exhibits," with other members serving as officers or members of most of the other committees. Much of the extensive historical research made necessary by the celebration was done in our library and we were made the official depository of the records of the celebration. The official Robert Fulton loan exhibition of over 350 portraits, letters, manuscripts, prints, publications and relics, assembled by the Society in association with the Colonial Dames of America, was held in our Henry Dexter Hall which had just been finished by Mr. Dexter, and we issued a descriptive catalogue of the exhibit. There were also lectures on Hudson and Fulton in our auditorium during the celebration. A reviewing stand seating over three hundred was built in front

WILBUR WRIGHT OVER NEW YORK HARBOR, OCTOBER 2, 1909
During the Hudson-Fulton Celebration

[The author of this history witnessed the flight pictured above from the deck of the Staten Island ferryboat shown at the left.]

Photo from the Institute of Aeronautical Science

THE SOCIETY'S GOLD MEDAL FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN HISTORY

I. N. Phelps Stokes, 1925
Wilberforce Eames, 1931
DeWitt M. Lockman, N.A., 1933
George C. D. Odell, 1942
Harry T. Peters, 1947

of the building for the convenience of our members and friends wishing to see the three great street parades and, after it was all over, the furnishings of the captain's cabin of the replica of the *Half Moon* which the Dutch government had sent over for the celebration and which consisted of objects contemporary with Hudson, were presented to our museum where they are still on exhibition.[46]

THE GOLD MEDAL FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN HISTORY

IT HAS always been the purpose of the Society to recognize and encourage American historical scholarship and to show its appreciation of outstanding gifts and other forms of cooperation from benefactors and specialists in the field of American history. To this end, the Society has added to its membership many of the great scholars and public men of our country and of other nations as well, either as Honorary, Corresponding, or Associate members, as Patrons or Fellows. In cases of exceptional merit it has also awarded gold medals, as we have already seen when the Centennial Medal was given to Henry Dexter and to Robert H. Kelby.

A series of gold medals "For Achievement in History" was inaugurated in 1925 when, on November 17th, the members of the Society and distinguished guests met in our auditorium to do honor to Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes for his monumental *Iconography of Manhattan Island* which was then nearing completion in six large and lavishly illustrated volumes, the greatest local history ever published in this country. The three-inch gold medal, by Sherry E. Fry, was designed "to recognize, encourage and honor the best scholars for their work in American history."[47] The program, which took place on the 121st anniversary of the founding of the Society, was called to order by Mr. Walter Lispenard Suydam, First Vice-President, who introduced Dr. Alexander C. Flick, New York State Historian, who spoke on "The Dutch Period of *The Iconography of Manhattan Island*." He

was followed by Dr. John H. Finley, Editor of the *New York Times*, whose subject was "The English period," and the "American period" was covered by Mr. Robert E. Dowling, President of the City Investing Company. The chairman then delivered a graceful address of presentation and, with the medal, handed Mr. Stokes a diploma of Honorary Membership in "this time-honored institution." "Whereupon the audience and guests rose to their feet, with applause, in honor of the presentation to Mr. Stokes." In his address of acceptance he told how he had begun his researches for the *Iconography* in 1909 by presenting to the librarian of the Society a letter of introduction from our president. He spoke of his gratitude for the honor just received and for the ready cooperation from libraries, scholars, and collectors during the compiling of his history. The evening closed with a reception and refreshments in the library.[48]

The second medal "for achievement in history" was presented on November 20, 1931, to America's greatest, best-loved and most scholarly bibliographer, Dr. Wilberforce Eames, former Librarian of the Lenox Library, Bibliographer of The New York Public Library and second editor of Sabin's *Dictionary of Books Relating to America*. President John Abeel Weekes introduced Dr. Harry Miller Lydenberg, Assistant Director of the New York Public Library, and Dr. Lawrence C. Wroth, Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, who spoke on the life and achievements of Dr. Eames. Then Mr. Weekes introduced Mr. Henry W. Kent, Secretary of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, who read a paper prepared by Mr. Frederick W. Hodge, Acting Director of the Museum of the American Indian, on Dr. Eames's outstanding work in Indian bibliography. Mr. Alexander J. Wall, the Society's Librarian, told an episode from the life of Dr. Eames. Mr. Weekes then presented the Society's gold medal to Dr. Eames "in recognition of his scholarship and his unselfish devotion to the interests of all researchers in the field of American historical literature," who acknowledged the honor in a brief and modest address which began: "It is a great privilege

to have so many friends." And all who could come were there to do him honor—librarians, bibliographers and historical scholars from many parts of the country. After the presentation of the medal, which was followed with warm applause, the remark-

WILBERFORCE EAMES (1855–1937)
By DeWitt M. Lockman, N.A., 1931
Painted from life for the Society, 1931

ably fine oil portrait of Dr. Eames by Mr. DeWitt M. Lockman, N.A., a member of the Executive Committee of the Society, was unveiled amid continued applause and the meeting adjourned for the informal reception and refreshments which followed.[49]

The next recipient of the Society's gold medal was Mr. Lockman himself. With great artistic talent and splendid generosity, he had given the Society a dozen oil portraits of distinguished Americans which he had painted from life especially for our

collection. To honor him for this splendid gift, the Society and many guests, including several distinguished artists, met in our auditorium on November 20, 1933, with Mr. Robert E. Dowling, our First Vice-President, in the chair. After a brief but interesting address on the history of the Society by Mr. Alexander J. Wall, its Librarian, the chairman introduced Mr. Léon Dabo, well-known American artist, who delivered a scholarly oration on American art, literature, and music, which delighted the audience. Mr. Dowling then presented the Society's medal to Mr. Lockman who said, in part:

> In presenting this token of appreciation, the Society has done far more than recognize an individual; it has declared to the world that it considers American portraiture worthy of recognition, and I believe it is the first institution, other than Museums and Societies devoted entirely to art, to so honor an American painter.
>
> Let us hope that the spirit which prompted the addition of these portraits to the Society's collection will continue through succeeding generations, until this institution shall equal the great portrait galleries of Europe, thus preserving in permanent form the likenesses of our distinguished men and women and the art of our painters.

The twelve portraits which Mr. Lockman painted for the Society include Edwin Howland Blashfield, N.A., Lieutenant-General Robert L. Bullard, President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University, President Calvin Coolidge, Dr. Wilberforce Eames, Major-General Hanson E. Ely, His Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Right Reverend Bishop William T. Manning, D.D., Honorable Elihu Root, Admiral William S. Sims, Mr. I. N. Phelps Stokes, and Governor Charles Seymour Whitman. To these the artist later added the portraits of Chancellor Harry Woodburn Chase of New York University and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The collection adorns our Auditorium except for the portraits of Presidents Coolidge and Roosevelt which are hung in our Gallery of Presidents. The Society also owns portraits by Mr. Lockman of President Fenwick Beekman, M.D., Honorable Josephus Daniels, George Hubert Herbert (the famous Barnum's Circus clown "Coco"),

Dr. Louis de Valois Wilder (painted when the artist was aged twelve), and portraits of the Society's two Directors. We are indeed fortunate to have so many examples of the work of this distinguished artist on our walls. Still active at eighty-four as a portraitist and as an officer of the Society, Mr. Lockman has painted over five hundred portraits and has received many honors during his long career, not the least of which are the Presidency of the National Academy of Design, of the National Association of Portrait Painters, and of the Allied Artists of America.[60]

The greatest contribution to the history of New York City since Stokes' *Iconography of Manhattan Island* was Professor G. C. D. Odell's *Annals of the New York Stage*, thirteen large volumes of which, covering the years 1750 through 1888, appeared between 1927 and 1942. Dr. Odell had hoped to bring his history down to 1900 but he died in 1949, the year volume 15 was published, covering the years 1891 to 1894. In recognition of this stupenduous piece of scholarship, which "Billy" Phelps of Yale called "the most terrific work by one man since Noah Webster wrote the 'Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language' all by himself," the Society held a meeting on October 23, 1942, to which famous actors, historians, and critics of the American drama and stage, as well as the members of the Society, were invited. After the invocation by Reverend Millard L. Robinson, D.D., President George A. Zabriskie introduced the following distinguished speakers who paid eloquent tribute to Dr. Odell and his great work: Professor Joseph Wood Krutch, Professor of English, Columbia University; Professor Arthur Hobson Quinn, Professor of History and English Literature, University of Pennsylvania; Mr. Walter Hampden, Shakespearean actor and President of The Players; Professor Walter Prichard Eaton, Associate Professor of Playwriting, Yale University; and Professor William Lyon Phelps, Professor of English Literature Emeritus, Yale University. In acknowledging the gift of the medal, Professor Odell said that he had been devoted to the theatre since childhood and told of some of the great actors he

had seen during his long life. When he had finished, the audience rose and applauded in tribute to the achievements of this great teacher and historian. After the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, a custom which was established at our meetings during the war, a reception for Dr. Odell ended the afternoon.[51]

Harry Twyford Peters (1881–1948), who joined our Society in 1930 and became a Fellow in 1946, was a born sportsman and a born collector. Having gathered a great sporting library and a collection of 10,000 wood engravings from American news weeklies, 1851–1900, the latter now in our Library by his generous gift, he next turned to the collecting of the lithographs of Currier and Ives and the other publishers in this fascinating field. Not content with gathering a virtually complete collection of the 7,000 lithographs of Currier and Ives, he wished to share his knowledge and enthusiasm with others and so was frequently in demand as a lecturer on his interesting hobby. He gave fascinating lantern-slide talks before our members in 1941, '42, and '43 on "Lithographers other than Currier and Ives," "The story of the Fair: its beginning, growth, and effect on American life," and "New York as the wood engraver saw it."

Though ever generous in lending prints from his collection, in delivering lectures on his hobby, and in advising institutions and collectors in the field, he wanted to reach a wider audience and so compiled our three greatest books on American lithography: *Currier and Ives, Printmakers to the American People; America on Stone;* and *California on Stone*.

In appreciation of his outstanding contribution to the history of American graphic arts, the Society decided to award Mr. Peters its fifth Gold Medal For Achievement in History. Owing to his precarious health, the presentation could not take the form of a public event and so, on December 8, 1947, Mr. Peters' two old friends, President Fenwick Beekman and the Director, went to Mr. Peters' home for a quiet, informal ceremony attended only by members of his family. President Beekman made the presentation in the name of the Society and accompanied it with the following citation:[52]

R. W. G. Vail

The Board of Trustees of The New-York Historical Society, in recognition of the outstanding contributions of Harry Twyford Peters to the history of the graphic arts in America and to the social history of our people, through the assembling of his unique collections of the lithographs of Currier and Ives and the works of other early American lithographers and woodcut artists, through the publication of his scholarly and authoritative works: *Currier and Ives, Printmakers to the American People*, *America on Stone*, and *California on Stone* and his other essays and lectures in this field, through his leadership and generous encouragement of other scholars and his years of service as officer, councilor and member of national societies devoted to American history, bibliography and the graphic arts, has awarded him the Society's Gold Medal for Achievement in History this eighth day of December, nineteen hundred and forty-seven.

[*Signed*] R. W. G. Vail
Secretary to the Board

Fenwick Beekman
President

THE GOLD MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

IN ADDITION to the Gold Medal for Achievement in History, the Society's Executive Committee instituted a Gold Medal for Distinguished Service on October 11, 1933. It is an inch and three-quarters medal with the seal of the Society on the obverse and a dated inscription to the recipient on the reverse and was executed by the Medallic Art Company. On that date

THE SOCIETY'S GOLD MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Issued to John A. Weekes and Samuel V. Hoffman, 1933
To George A. Zabriskie, 1937

it was awarded to Mr. Samuel Verplanck Hoffman, President from 1903 to 1913 and, at the time of the award, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and to Mr. John Abeel Weekes, President from 1913 to 1939, who "have for many years given unlimited time and service and nothing which the Society might do could adequately express to them its sincere thanks and appreciation."[53] Again, on December 21, 1937, the Board of Trustees recognized the generous services of one of its officers when they presented the Gold Medal for Distinguished Service to Mr. George A. Zabriskie, then the Society's Treasurer but later its President. In making the presentation, Mr. Augustus C. Hone, Fourth Vice-President of the Society, reminded his fellow Trustees of Mr. Zabriskie's many generous gifts, including the equipment of our bindery, his skillful reinvestment of the Mary G. Thompson bequest, thus increasing our capital by more than $150,000, and his touring of Europe with Mr. Wall and at his own expense in search of the best possible lighting technique and equipment for our new galleries. It was both generous and just to recognize in this way the outstanding services beyond the call of duty of three of our most generous officers.[54]

OUR ENLARGED BUILDING IS OPENED

THE generosity of the Elizabeth G., Charles G., and Mary G. Thompson bequests made possible the completion of the Society's building by the addition of the two wings, new stacks, and workrooms. To carry out this program of the physical expansion of our plant, the building was closed on June 30, 1937,[55] and reopened on April 1, 1939, to over eight hundred of the public. In the meantime, the important but bulky Egyptian and American archeological and ethnological collections had been transferred on indefinite loan to the Brooklyn Museum which later purchased them. So, with the greatly enlarged exhibition space, it was possible, for the first time, properly to arrange our chief treasures to advantage.

When the building was reopened on the afternoon of March

MARY GARDINER THOMPSON (1844–1935), BENEFACTRESS OF THE SOCIETY

By Daniel Huntington, 1898

Gift made in accordance with the wish of the subject

29th with a preview for some three hundred guests, including members of the Board and their families, representatives of other local museums and the press, the Society had become a great modern library and museum of American history. The 30th was Members Day and that afternoon eleven hundred guests and members overflowed the auditorium into the adjoining halls where amplifiers made it possible for all to hear the program.

Following an organ prelude, the ceremonies were begun with an invocation by the Reverend Dr. Edgar Franklin Romig, Minister of the West End Collegiate (Dutch Reformed) Church. R. Horace Gallatin, Esquire, First Vice-President of the Society and chairman of the occasion, paid tribute to Elizabeth Gardiner Thompson, Charles Griswold Thompson and Mary Gardiner Thompson, whose munificent bequests made the construction of the Society's new wings possible. After extending the thanks and great appreciation of the Society to its officers and Board of Trustees for their great interest and active participation in the events of the past two years, he introduced Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University, who delighted his audience with a splendid address [*which was printed with this account of the meeting*].

Upon the conclusion of Dr. Butler's address, Dr. Romig delivered the benediction, and the large gathering proceeded to the painting galleries on the top floor, where a collation was served and an organ concert enjoyed. The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to the inspection of the new building and its collections, which proved a source of delight to many who remembered the Society as it was before its transformation.[56]

THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL OF THE SOCIETY

THE half-century since our Centennial in 1904 had been too crowded with world-shaking events for our Society to give more than a passing thought to its birthdays. We had weathered two world wars and the fighting in Korea which threatened again to set the world aflame. We had witnessed the fall of Hitler and Mussolini and the rise of Stalin; we had applauded the creation of the United Nations and the pleasant antics of the picturesque but honest "Little Flower"; we had watched with a far from impartial eye the activities of the New Deal and the Fair Deal; and we had begun the Cold War and the Atomic Age. We had also experienced the hectic age of pro-

hibition, bootlegging, speakeasies, and gangsterism; and the women had gotten the vote. We had had the worst panic in years, which we coyly called the "Depression" which was followed by what we were pleased to describe as the "Recession," with its memory of the Dust Bowl, sharecroppers, migrants, trailers and "The Grapes of Wrath." But we also had modern air travel, jet planes which had crashed through the sound barrier, the rise and fall of colored movies and talkies, and had entered the era of radio, television, three-dimensional motion pictures, and wonder drugs.

And so, with an uneasy peace in our part of the world, we remembered that we were about to reach our one-hundred-and-fiftieth birthday. It was therefore planned to have a year-long celebration, in traditional fashion to include a banquet, special exhibitions, lectures, articles in our *Quarterly*, the issuance of an anniversary medal and a history of the Society, and to hold a great meeting as near as possible to the anniversary date.

To begin our Sesqui-Centennial, we planned a dinner at the Union Club to be held on May 3, 1954, for the officers and Board of Trustees of the Society and a group of distinguished guests. Looking down with an approving smile on the proceedings below was the portrait of Mr. John Pintard, our Founder. All but three[87] of the officers and Board members were present and they, with the guests, made up the following goodly company:

Dr. Fenwick Beekman, M.D., President of the Society
President Grayson L. Kirk of Columbia University, the speaker of the evening
Frederick B. Adams, Jr., Trustee of the Society and Director of the Morgan Library
Henry Bruère, First Vice President of The New York Public Library
Solon J. Buck, Assistant Librarian of Congress
Albert B. Corey, New York State Historian
Sidney W. Davidson, Chairman of the Governing Committee of the Brooklyn Museum
Shelby Cullom Davis, President of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York
Charles E. Dunlap, Trustee of the Society and Chairman of the Dinner Committee

Henry F. du Pont, Founder of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum

Allen Evarts Foster, Life Member of the Society and member of the City Art Commission

Alexander Hamilton, President of The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society

P. Raymond Haulenbeek, President of The Holland Society of New York

Henry T. Heald, Chancellor of New York University

Elliot B. Hunt, President of The Westchester County Historical Society

John V. Irwin, Trustee of the Society

LeRoy E. Kimball, First Vice-President of the Society, Member of the Dinner Committee, and Vice Chancellor of New York University

R. McAllister Lloyd, Trustee of the Society

DeWitt M. Lockman, N.A., Recording Secretary of the Society

Dr. Alexander T. Martin, M.D., President of The New York Academy of Medicine

Dr. Arthur H. Merritt, D.D.S., Trustee of the Society

Clarence G. Michalis, Vice President of The Museum of the City of New York

Lewis Gouverneur Morris, Trustee of the Society

Irving S. Olds, Fourth Vice-President of the Society, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, and Trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Fairfield Osborn, President of The New York Zoological Society

John E. Parsons, Trustee of the Society

John H. G. Pell, Director of Fort Ticonderoga Association

Edmund Astley Prentis, Trustee of the Society

Lee Thompson Smith, President of The Saint Nicholas Society

Boyd Lee Spahr, President of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Thomas W. Streeter, Treasurer of the Society, Member of the Dinner Committee, and President of The American Antiquarian Society

Leonard Sullivan, Chairman of the Executive Committee of The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

R. W. G. Vail, Director of the Society and Secretary of the Board of Trustees

William T. Van Alstyne, Domestic Corresponding Secretary of the Society

Alexander M. White, President of The American Museum of Natural History

Forsyth Wickes, Third Vice-President of the Society

Rodney W. Williams, Trustee of the Society

Louis C. Wills, Second Vice-President of the Society

THE SOCIETY'S SESQUI-CENTENNIAL MEDAL, 1804–1954

Designed by Ralph J. Menconi
Executed by the Medallic Art Company, 1954

The company assembled at 7:30 P.M. for cocktails and the taking of photographs. When they took their seats at the large beautifully decorated table in the banquet hall, each guest of the Society found at his plate a red carnation (there was a white one for each member), the menu and guest list and the Sesqui-Centennial Medal in bronze, by Ralph J. Menconi, with the seal of the Society on the obverse and the Society's building, with appropriate inscription, on the reverse.

The guests took their places in the beautiful banquet hall at eight o'clock and, before being seated, Mr. Charles E. Dunlap, Chairman of the Dinner Committee, introduced Mr. LeRoy E. Kimball, the First Vice-President, who delivered the traditional invocation of the Society which had been given originally by Reverend John Codman, D.D., a delegate from the Massachusetts Historical Society, at our Fortieth Anniversary Dinner at the New York Hotel on November 20, 1844:

We thank Thee, O Lord, that thou hast indeed been merciful to us up to this hour; that our lives have indeed fallen in pleasant places, and

that we have a goodly heritage in this our land, and the institutions that abound therein. We ask Thy blessing on the Society whose anniversary we have this day met to commemorate, and upon its exertions. We thank Thee for the good which Thou hast enabled it, and similar institutions, to perform; and we humbly request that Thou wilt continue to bless them, and extend their researches, and the labors and advantages of historic institutions, throughout the land. We thank Thee for the social comforts which we are about to enjoy, and we pray that we may so use these, and all thy blessings, that they may redound to Thy honor and glory. We ask these mercies for Christ's sake. Amen.[58]

The following delicious menu illustrates the simpler and saner dining habits of this generation as compared with the elaborate taste of our ancestors of a century ago who were confronted with dozens of dishes and were required to drink dozens of toasts:

Harvey's Dry Sherry	Cream of Mushroom au Crouton
	Celery Olives Radishes
Bellinger Brut 1945	Tournedos of Beef Rossini
	Stuffed Baked Potato
	Julienne of String Beans au Beurre
	New Asparagus Vinaigrette
	Vanilla Ring with Strawberries au Kirsch
	Petits Fours
Cordials	Demi-Tasse
Cigars Cigarettes	

Before the beginning of the evening's program, the Chairman of the Dinner Committee proposed the traditional toast, which had been given at the Fiftieth Anniversary Banquet a century ago and had been repeated at the Centennial Dinner in 1904:

The Twentieth of November, 1804—the birthday of The New-York Historical Society: rich in its memories of the past and in its hopes of the future, may each return of this anniversary find the Society more abounding in its means, more active in its operations, and more extended in its usefulness.[59]

The First Vice-President then called for a toast: "To the Founders and Benefactors of The New-York Historical Society," and he was followed by Mr. Thomas W. Streeter,

CONVERSATION PIECE AT THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL DINNER, 1954

Henry F. du Pont · Forsyth Wickes · Charles E. Dunlap

Treasurer of the Society, with a toast: "To our guests, the representatives of the universities, historical and patriotic societies, libraries and museums, and to the institutions they represent."

The Chairman of the Dinner Committee then introduced President Fenwick Beekman, who briefly sketched the history of the Society and spoke of its principal resources and activities. Then, turning to President Grayson L. Kirk of Columbia University, the speaker of the evening, he reminded him of the friendly association between our two institutions during the past century and a half and that, of the thirteen previous presidents of Columbia, eight had been members of our Society. Then, in the name of the Board of Trustees, he handed President Kirk a certificate of his election as an Honorary Member of the Society and,

in introducing him to the gathering, said that he would speak on "The History of the Future."[60]

President Kirk, after mentioning several of our founders and famous members who had also been associated with Columbia, and after citing a number of examples of friendly cooperation between the two institutions, delivered a brief but thoughtful and scholarly address on the problems which the historian of the future is likely to face. Among the difficulties confronting him would be the enormous mass of documents he would be compelled to examine; the lacunae in his material caused by the general use of secret verbal conferences made possible by the general use of rapid air travel and the increasing use of the long-distance telephone for important consultations, all of which tend to limit the number of written diplomatic notes available to previous historical students. He also pointed out that the future historian will be confused by the propaganda use of radio, television, and the press and by the clamor of an increasing number of conflicting partisan voices in Washington. He also deplored the inevitable restriction on freedom of thought and expression resulting from our necessary war on Communism.

In thanking President Kirk for his address, President Beekman said that it was most appropriate and timely and showed remarkable foresight as to the difficulties facing our future historians. He then turned to his friends around the great table and said: "Gentlemen, the evening is over." And so, at 10:15, the meeting adjourned.

As the last guest left the hall and the waiters came in to clear the room, the Director gathered up his notes, smiled up at the portrait of the Founder, waved him a salute and said: "Wasn't it a lovely evening, Sir? I hope you enjoyed it too. Good-night, Mr. Pintard."

Notes

[1] Original minutes of the Society, September 4, 1809.
[2] *New-York Evening Post*, September 6, 1809, p. 3.
[3] *Letters from John Pintard to His Daughter* (NYHS, 1940), I:260.
[4] From the Society's Minutes, August 17 and 18, 1824.
[4a] *The Jubilee of the Constitution* . . . , by John Quincy Adams (New York:

1839), 136 pp., front., 8vo. Account of the Celebration, pp. 121–136. The frontispiece: *Inauguration of Washington at the Old City Hall, 1789,* a lithograph of the transparency which was unveiled at the time and which is here reproduced from the original still owned by the Society.

[5] "An account of the celebration of the New York Historical Society, on their Fortieth Anniversary, Wednesday, Nov. 20th, 1844," in the Society's *Proceedings* for the year 1844, (New York: 1845), 59–107. Also *N. Y. Tribune,* Nov. 21, 1844, p. 2.

[6] For Adams' pleasant reference to Gallatin on this occasion, see his letter accepting the invitation to the meeting, printed herein, p. 143.

[7] *Memoirs of John Quincy Adams,* (Philadelphia: 1877), XII:108–109.

[8] The resolution, from the Minutes, is as follows: "This Society has learned with profound regret [of] the death of Andrew Jackson, an illustrious citizen whose long public services endeared him to the American people and whose life and conduct will be inseparably connected in history with the era to which he belonged. Therefore it is *Resolved* That in common with our citizens throughout the union we lament the decease of a gallant and distinguished soldier whose victories have shed lustre on the Republic; an independent, sagacious magistrate, whose steady aim was to advance the honor of his country. *Resolved* That he who has gone down to his grave full of honors and full of years, has left behind him a character whose attributes of patriotism, courage, energy, resolution [and] fearlessness of responsibility marked him as one of the few great men who leave an impress upon the age in which they lived. 'Heaven gave him length of days and he filled them with deeds of greatness.' His reputation is now the property of his Country and should be the care of her future Biographers and Historians. *Resolved* That the members of this Society of which the deceased was an honorary associate will wear the usual badge of mourning and unite with the municipal authorities and citizens in paying a public tribute of respect to his memory." For a full and delightful account, culled from the newspapers of the time, of this unseemly political brawl which lasted in the press for days, see *The Old University Building and the Society's Years on Washington Square,* by LeRoy E. Kimball, in the Society's *Quarterly,* July 1948, pp. 166–182.

[9] Published in the Society's *Proceedings* for 1845, (New York: 1846), 132–158.

[10] "Incentives to the study of the ancient period of American history," by Henry R. Schoolcraft, published as an appendix to the *Proceedings* of the Society for 1846.

[11] *Proceedings* for 1846, p. 30.

[12] Described from the Society's Minutes and the newspapers of Nov. 21, 1854.

[13] *Five Generations,* by Margaret Armstrong (New York: 1930), 185.

[14] *Historical Magazine,* July, 1866, p. 230.

[15] *Historical Magazine,* August, 1866, p. 264.

[16] In its issue of December 1857, p. 369–370.

[17] Board Minutes, and *Proceedings at the dedication of the Library* (1857), 27 pp.

[18] *Historical Magazine,* December, 1857, p. 369–370.

[19] NYHS Executive Committee Minutes, January 19, 1932: "After a discussion as to the advisability of omitting the usual collation at the monthly lectures, it was moved by Mr. Dowling and approved that the collation be dispensed with until further direction." It will be remembered that this economy measure was adopted during the Depression. According to the Board Minutes of January 17, 1939, it was decided that the collations be continued when deemed expedient.

[20] *New York Times,* November 18, 1857, p. 5; *New York during the Last Half Century,* by John W. Francis, M.D., LL.D. (New York: 1857), 232 pp., enlarged and published in book form as: *Old New York* (New York: 1858, also 1865 and 1866).

[21] Published in the *Times* of Dec. 7, 1859 (except for Dr. Francis' remarks) from the original manuscripts in our archives. The remarks of Luther Bradish, Charles King, George Bancroft and Dr. John W. Francis appear in *Irvingiana: a Memorial of Washington Irving* (New York: 1860), 29–36.

[22] *Historical Magazine,* May, 1860, p. 143–145.

[23] Minutes of the Society; *Historical Magazine*, May, 1860, p. 143–145; article by Henry T. Tuckerman in the *Boston Transcript*, April 5, 1860. The Society failed to secure for its *Proceedings* the manuscript of Bryant's oration which, however, was separately published as: *A Discourse on the Life, Character and Genius of Washington Irving* (New York: G. P. Putnam, 1860), 46 pp.

[24] *An Address Delivered at the Celebration by the New York Historical Society, May 20, 1863, of the Two Hundredth Birthday of Mr. William Bradford, Who Introduced the Art of Printing into the Middle Colonies of British America,* by John William Wallace (Albany: 1863), 114 pp.

[25] From the records of the Society and the New York *World* and *Times*, April 9, and *Mail and Express*, April 8, 1893, with briefer notices in the *Herald, Sun,* and *Tribune* of April 9.

[26] *New York Daily Tribune*, Oct. 14, 1864, p. 7. The Society published Brodhead's *The conquest of New Netherland* (New York: 1864), 87 pp., map.

Though Cochrane had served as Colonel and Brigadier General early in the war, his health forced his resignation and he returned to law and politics in which he played an important part. He was originally a Tammany Democrat with Southern sympathies but when war was declared he became a warm supporter of the Union. Becoming dissatisfied with Lincoln's policies, he joined the opposition wing of the Republican party and allowed himself to be nominated at the Cleveland convention of May 31, 1864, for Vice-President with John C. Frémont running for President. Receiving little support, they withdrew their ticket and Cochrane supported Lincoln for reëlection. He was evidently not too proud of his having joined with Frémont to oppose Lincoln, if we may judge by his remarks as quoted above. He had served as Attorney General of New York and held numerous other offices.

[27] *Commemoration of the Battle of Harlem Plains on Its One Hundredth Anniversary by the New York Historical Society* (New York: Published by the Society, 1876), 98 pp., map. Includes the Jay address.

[28] *Evening Telegram*, September 16, 1876.

[29] *New York Herald*, September 17, 1876.

[30] *New York Times*, September 17, 1876.

[31] *The Battle of Harlem Heights, September 16, 1776. Read before the New York Historical Society February 5, 1878. With a preface and notes,* by Erastus C. Benedict (New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. [1881]), xi, 62 pp.

[32] *Dictionary of American History* (1940), III:10.

[32a] Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, in *Andrews' American Queen*, February, 1879.

[32b] Editorial in Mr. Bryant's *Evening Post*, January 3, 1879.

[32c] Editorial from *New York Tribune*, December 31, 1878.

[32d] *The Life, Character and Writings of William Cullen Bryant. A Commemorative Address delivered before the New-York Historical Society, at the Academy of Music, December 30, 1878.* By George William Curtis, New York, [1879]. 64 p., 8vo.

[32e] Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, who was one of the members of the Society who attended, in *Andrews' American Queen*, February, 1879.

[33] *New York Times* and *Tribune*, November 27, 1883.

[34] *New York Times* and *Tribune*, November 28, 1883; Minutes of the Society. The Society celebrated the 150th anniversary with an appropriate program on November 25, 1933 (NYHS *Quarterly*, January, 1934, p. 100).

[35] The Chamber of Commerce had been organized in the old tavern on April 5, 1768, and so they began the celebration with a memorial luncheon at noon of the fifth. The minutes of the Chamber for December 6, 1768, state that, at their meetings in the tavern, the members were to be provided, at their own expense which was not to exceed a shilling, with "bread and cheese, beer, punch, pipes and tobacco," so at their luncheon in 1883 this tradition was continued.

[36] New York *Tribune* and *Sun*, December 5, 1883.

[37] *A Sketch of Fraunces Tavern,* by Henry Russell Drowne (1939), 3d ed., 37 pp.

[38] *The History of the Centennial Celebration of the Inauguration of George Washington as First President of the United States,* Edited by Clarence Winthrop Bowen, Ph.D., Secretary of the Committee (New York: 1892), xviii, 673 pp., illus.

[39] *New York Daily Tribune,* November 23, 1904.

[40] The Centennial Medal, in bronze, was given to each guest at the dinner.

[41] Minutes of the Executive Committee, October 18, 1904.

[42] Minutes of the Society and transcription of the addresses at the banquet. The Society owns two portraits of Mr. Dexter and one of his son, Orrando P. Dexter, all by Charles Ayer Whipple, the first and third painted in 1906 and given by Mr. Dexter and the second painted in 1907 and given by his estate.

[43] Smith E. Lane (1829–1909), lawyer, former Park Commissioner, and clubman, joined the Society in 1850, apparently having attended previously with Josiah Lane who became a member in 1844. (Information from the Society's Register of Members and from an obituary in the *World,* February 2, 1909).

[44] The Society celebrated its 135th anniversary with an appropriate program and a historical exhibit on November 20, 1939 (NYHS *Quarterly,* January, 1940, p. 5–11).

[45] Hall, *History of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration* (Albany: 1910), I:486–497.

[46] *Official Minutes of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission* (Albany: 1905, 1911), 2 vols.; *Official History of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration* (Albany: 1910), 2 vols.; *Report of the Society's Executive Committee for 1909* (New York: 1910); *Catalogue of the Official Robert Fulton Exhibition* (New York: [1909]), 66 pp.

[47] *Annual Report of the Society, 1925,* p. 11.

[48] *Proceedings and addresses. Reception tendered to Mr. Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes by The New-York Historical Society on Tuesday evening, November 17, 1925 in recognition of his great work The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498–1909* (New York: 1926), 32 pp.

[49] *Proceedings and addresses at the presentation of The New-York Historical Society's gold medal to Dr. Wilberforce Eames . . . and the unveiling of his portrait painted for the Society by Mr. DeWitt M. Lockman* (New York: 1932), 40 pp., illus.

[50] *Proceedings and addresses at the presentation of The New-York Historical Society's gold medal to Mr. DeWitt McClellan Lockman, N.A., in recognition of his great ability and valuable work in painting the portraits of distinguished contemporary Americans for the Art Gallery of The New-York Historical Society. On the occasion of the one hundred and twenty-ninth anniversary of the founding of the Society, Monday, November 20, 1933* (New York: 1934), 26 pp., ports.

[51] *Presentation of The New-York Historical Society's Gold Medal for Achievement in History to George Clinton Densmore Odell in the Auditorium of the Society, New York City, October 23, 1942. Proceedings and addresses* (New York: 1943), 44 pp., illus.

[52] *Presentation of The New-York Historical Society's Gold Medal for Achievement in History to Harry Twyford Peters, December 8, 1947* (New York: 1948), 16 pp., illus. (A reprint from *NYHS Quarterly,* April, 1948, p. 79–87).

[53] *NYHS Quarterly,* January 1934, p. 95, illus.

[54] *NYHS Quarterly,* January, 1938, p. 28–29, illus.

[55] *NYHS Executive Committee Minutes,* March 16, 1937.

[56] *NYHS Quarterly,* April, 1939, p. 35–48, illus., including Dr. Butler's address.

[57] Henry O. Havemeyer, Archer M. Huntington, and Hall Park McCullough, all of whom were unfortunately out of town.

[58] As recorded in the *New-York Daily Tribune,* November 21, 1844.

[59] Typewritten report of the speeches at the Society's dinner, November 22, 1904.

[60] The text of President Beekman's introductory remarks and the principal part of President Kirk's address will be found in this issue of the *Quarterly,* pages 209–221.

WEDDING OF TOM THUMB (CHARLES S. STRATTON)
AND LAVINIA WARREN BUMP

At Grace Church, New York City, February 10, 1863

Lithograph of Firth Son & Co., New York, 1864 (Print at NYHS)

GENERAL TOM THUMB'S WIDOW

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTESS M. LAVINIA MAGRI

by ALICE CURTIS DESMOND

IN ACQUIRING the journal of the Countess Primo Magri, widow of General Tom Thumb, The New-York Historical Society has come into possession of one of the most unusual autobiographies in existence.* Possibly the only life-story ever written by a midget, it gives us the peculiar psychology and viewpoint of a "little person."

It is not easy for normal-sized people to see things through the eyes of an amazing little creature thirty-two inches high, as one does in this authentic manuscript. There are intimate details in it of Lavinia's girlhood days; her marriage and life with the most famous diminutive man who ever lived, General Tom Thumb; quite a bit as to his personality; Lavinia's reactions to being exhibited, and her opinion of her cash customers. There are anecdotes of the famous people General and Mrs. Thumb met. She tells of her travels, and indignantly denies the rumor that she and Charles Sherwood Stratton (Tom Thumb) were not happily married.

Lavinia's fat journal, written in a fine, regular hand, was obviously intended for publication. In the fall of 1906 a condensed version of "Mrs. Tom Thumb's Autobiography" appeared in three issues of the *Theater Magazine*, and in the *New York Tribune Sunday Section*. But the entire manuscript has not before been available. To Lavinia's disappointment her life was never published in book form. After the famous General Tom Thumb died in 1883, he faded in people's memories to something

* Presented to the Society by the author and her husband, the Honorable Thomas C. Desmond, in 1953. Mrs. Desmond is the author of several books, the latest being *Barnum Presents: General Tom Thumb* (Macmillan, 1954).

of a legend. As the years passed, his widow was almost forgotten.

The history of this journal is something of a mystery. Lavinia's nephew, Benjamin J. Bump, thinks that it was probably sold by her second husband, the Italian midget, Count Primo Magri, when he auctioned off the Countess's possessions after her death in 1919. C. E. H. Whitlock of New Haven, Connecticut, who acquired the manuscript for The New-York Historical Society, bought it from Leonard M. Robinson of Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts. We are happy that it is now in good hands, at the Society, available for the use of future historians.

Mrs. Tom Thumb portrays herself as a fun-loving, intelligent, patriotic little American, who never let the fact that she was a midget destroy her self-confidence. She was a midget because something went wrong with her pituitary gland, but she was not a dwarf or a freak. Lavinia was perfectly proportioned, a pretty little brunette with a round dimpled face, in good health and with a fine mind. At the age of ten, she stopped growing. She was thirty-two inches high, and weighed twenty-nine pounds; but she felt as big as anyone. She never wished to think of herself as a midget.

Christened Mercy Lavinia Warren Bump, she was born on October 31, 1841, in Middleboro, Massachusetts, of full-sized parents. Mr. and Mrs. James S. Bump were tall; Lavinia had two full-sized sisters as well as four brothers who were six feet and over. But her youngest sister Minnie was a midget too, no higher than Lavinia's shoulder.

The little author proudly traces her ancestry back through a Mayflower ancestor, Richard Warren, to the Earl of Warren, son-in-law of William the Conqueror, and tells of her childhood on the Bump farm in Middleboro. Her six-foot brothers carried their tiny sister to school, where Lavinia was mischievous, taking advantage of her height to run about under the benches and pinch the legs of the other pupils. But she studied hard, and at sixteen taught the third grade, a group of children between the ages of four and nine, all of whom towered over their midget teacher.

Lavinia might have gone on being a schoolteacher, if a cousin had not been running a "floating theatre" on the Mississippi. Anxious to see the world, she persuaded her parents to let her join his troupe.

She describes the rowdy showboat life on the Mississippi; a meeting with General Ulysses S. Grant; and still earlier with Lincoln's opponent for the presidency, Stephen A. Douglas, who tried to kiss the pretty, nineteen-year-old midget. But let Lavinia tell it:

> . . . as I stood before him he took my hand and drawing me toward him stooped to kiss me. I instinctively drew back, feeling my face suffused with blushes. It seemed impossible to make people at first understand that I was not a child; that being a woman I had the womanly instinct of shrinking from a form of familiarity which in the case of a child of my size would have been as natural as it was permissible. With the quick perception that was a part of his nature Mr. Douglas understood, and laughing heartily, he said with a merry twinkle of the eye, "I am often called The Little Giant, but if I am a giant I am not necessarily an Ogre and will not eat you, although you almost tempt me."

During the summer of 1862, P. T. Barnum heard of the charming little actress. Thinking that he might duplicate the success that he had had exhibiting General Tom Thumb, the famous showman arranged to have Mercy Lavinia Warren Bump come under his management and appear in New York at his American Museum on the corner of Broadway and Ann Street. Barnum shortened her name to Lavinia Warren; bought her beautiful clothes and jewels; and installed her at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where Lavinia was introduced to New York Society at receptions attended by Vanderbilts, Astors, and Civil War generals.

Press clippings telling of her success, that Lavinia must have treasured, are pasted to the next pages of the manuscript. She gives an awed description of meeting the aging war-hero, General Winfield Scott; and mentions for the first time a small general who was to mean more in her life than all the Generals Scott, McClellan, Burnside, Rosencrans, and McPherson combined.

I little thought . . . how many important events would quickly follow and be crowded into my life's history; one of the most important and least anticipated being my marriage, almost at the opening of my career. I had heard of General Tom Thumb and seen him once, but knew nothing of his character, reputation and fame. I was destined, however, shortly to know and marry him, thus fulfilling the adage "the unexpected always happens."

. . . I was first introduced to the General a few weeks prior to my visit to Mr. Barnum. Mr. Barnum in his autobiography states that I first saw and was introduced to the General while I was giving levees at the Museum, but he was in error.

Well, Lavinia should know. Wherever the midgets met, it was love at first sight for General Tom Thumb, thirty-five inches high, and twenty-four years old, when he gazed into Miss Warren's dark eyes. Of the courtship that followed, Lavinia tells us little that the readers of Barnum's autobiography, *Struggles & Triumphs*, do not know. Unfortunately she quotes the 1872 edition, instead of telling us her own reactions to the General's ardent wooing. There was a rival, a twenty-nine-inch midget known as Commodore Nutt. He, too, loved Lavinia. But Tom Thumb, seven years older, and wealthier, won the fair lady.

The announcement of the marriage of the two little people created "an immense excitement." The American Museum was crowded to suffocation; Lavinia sold more than three hundred dollars worth of her photographs daily. Barnum, delighted, offered the happy pair fifteen thousand dollars to postpone their wedding for a month. Lavinia writes indignantly, "As the General and myself were expecting to marry each other, and not Mr. Barnum, and as moreover we were neither of us marrying for money . . . we declined."

Pasted to the manuscript's yellowed pages are the bride's own clippings from *Frank Leslie's Journal* telling of the lavish wedding on February 10, 1863, at fashionable Grace Church, that Barnum staged for his midgets. A memorable event in New York's history, it crowded Civil War news off the front page. Readers turned from accounts of death on the battlefield to read of Lavinia's bridal gown, with lace at fifty dollars a yard; the

sumptuous wedding gifts; the reception at the Metropolitan Hotel, so thronged with the elite of society that the tiny bridal pair had to stand on the piano so as not to get stepped upon.

Then Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sherwood Stratton were off on a honeymoon trip to Washington. Lavinia's description of their being entertained by President and Mrs. Lincoln at the White House is fascinating, for now she cannot quote Barnum.

> . . . the President took our hands and led us to the sofa, lifting the General up and placed him at his left hand, while Mrs. Lincoln did the same service for me, placing me at her right . . . . Tad, the favorite son, stood beside his mother and gazing at me . . . whispered to his mother, "Mother if you were a little woman like Mrs. Stratton you would look just like her" . . . a remark I afterwards frequently heard. "Mr. Stanton," said the President, "is Gen. Tom Thumb's name upon our army list?" "No," said Mr. Stanton, then turning to the General inquired, "Where did you receive your title?" "From Queen Victoria," replied the General. (This is a fact not generally known.) "Why, how was that?" asked Mr. Lincoln. "When I appeared before the Queen at Buckingham Palace," said the General, ". . . I stood by the Prince and Princess. I did not reach up more than a little above their waists. Mr. Barnum had introduced me as Tom Thumb. The Duke of Wellington remarked to one of the nobility, 'Their Royal Highnesses are head and shoulders taller than Tom Thumb.' Her Majesty heard it and turning to the old Duke said, *General* Tom Thumb. The Duke bowed, and with a military salute to me repeated, '*General* Tom Thumb,' and everybody bowed. After that I was always called by the title."

Lavinia's insistence here on page 50, and again on page 65C, that Queen Victoria and not Barnum gave Tom Thumb his military title is the most sensational disclosure in the manuscript. To the author of this article it is unbelievable, for newspaper clippings and billboards of the American Museum advertise *General Tom Thumb* in 1843, the year before he went to England and met the Queen.

Back to his native Bridgeport, Connecticut, the General brought his bride. But the happy couple were not to settle down to domesticity in the mansion that Tom Thumb had built there, with its exquisite midget furniture, for Barnum had no intention of allowing the Thumbs to retire.

In a few months the General and his little wife were again under P. T. Barnum's management, touring New England, Canada, and the Midwest, with Lavinia's sister Minnie and Commodore Nutt (his jealousy nobly put behind him), and with Sylvester Bleeker, an associate of Barnum's, as manager. Lavinia tells how it feels to be entertained by the Governor General of Canada; of a second meeting with General Grant and his son Fred, and with John Wilkes Booth, playing Louisville at the time, who, she remembers, "expressed sympathy for the South"; several attempts to steal her jewels; and as they neared the Civil War battlelines, the fears of the tiny troupers that they would be captured by the Confederate forces.

By October 1864, the "little people," as Lavinia refers to midgets, were off to London to be entertained by the Prince and Princess of Wales; received in Paris by Napoleon III and the Empress Eugénie; and in England again, invited to Windsor Castle by Queen Victoria. With what pride Lavinia writes of being feted by kings and queens! Describing the visit of the four midgets to Marlborough House, she quotes the following (and to this writer unbelievable) conversation between Tom Thumb and the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII):

> "You were not called General then?" said the Prince (referring to Tom Thumb's trip to England in 1844, as a child with Barnum). "No," replied my husband. "Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, gave me that title and I am as proud of that as I am of my American Citizenship."

In December, the little quartette left for Paris. "The General spoke French readily but . . . I'm such a rampant American I was never willing to acquire any other than my native tongue." They tried to do some sight-seeing, and did visit the tomb of Napoleon, "but the crowds that followed us, made it so unpleasant getting about, we gave up trying." Everywhere the popular little entertainers went they obstructed traffic. Back in England, they took a house in London's fashionable West End, and on Mayor's Day, tried to see the procession from their balcony. But the crowd waiting to watch the Mayor ride by "shouted and gazed, not at

the procession, but at us. We were obliged to go inside in order to make it possible for the procession . . . to pass on."

The fifty pages that follow, describing their tour of the British Isles, show the Countess's interest in history (too much of it copied from Baedeker), but her narrative abounds with personal incidents as well, told with considerable humor: her friendship with a Mrs. Bretell, custodian of St. James's Palace, who became so flustered at a visit from Queen Victoria that, curtsying to royalty, she fell flat on her face; the outwitting of a diamond crook; a call from "Lady Franklin, whose husband was lost in his search for the North Pole," and from Queen Emma of the Sandwich Islands; then in Ireland, the amusing spectacle of Tom Thumb "being lowered by his feet to kiss the Blarney Stone."

On their return to America after the Civil War, the Tom Thumbs, Minnie, and Commodore Nutt visited the Southern States. In May 1869, Mr. Bleeker, their manager, received a letter from Barnum:

> What do you think of a Tour Around the World, including a visit to Australia? The new Pacific Railroad will be finished in a few weeks; you will then be enabled to cross the American Continent to California; thence by steam to Japan, China, etc. . . . Talk it over with the little people. I name you Generalissimo of the invading forces in their grand march. . . .

There was some trepidation on the part of the midget quartette at the thought of the long, dangerous journey. "Why, Australia is on the other side of the earth!" exclaimed Tom Thumb. And Lavinia reminds her readers:

> Let it be remembered that a trip around the world then, was quite a different thing from what it is now in these days of "Raymondies" and "Cookies" with planned stereotyped routes and hotel rooms engaged ahead, agents to take you when and where *they* list, and whirl you by train and trolley past all the places where you want to go and land you by night in darkness in the special place you don't want to see.

But Barnum was persuasive. The tour of the world was decided upon. On the 21st of June 1869, the General Tom Thumb

Company left New York with Sylvester Bleeker as manager, Rodnia Nutt (the Commodore's dwarf brother) as coachman, and a retinue of thirteen people. Lavinia noted the unlucky number with apprehension.

Their first danger was from Indians as they crossed the western plains on the Union Pacific Railway, whose last spike had just been driven. To warn any redskins about to attack the train how well they could handle firearms, the passengers fired their rifles out of the car windows as they sped along. Then on the lonely roads between Omaha, Cheyenne, and Salt Lake City (still but canvas-top towns) where they exhibited, lurked highwaymen. Lavinia sat in the swaying stagecoach, clutching her diamonds nervously.

The party reached Yokohama only fifteen years after Commodore Perry opened Japan to foreigners. Both in Japan and China a white person of any size at that time was a curiosity. Crowds blocked the streets to see Tom Thumb's coach, with Rodnia Nutt as driver, and the little people inside.

At Singapore, the Maharajah of Johore came aboard their ship to invite the midgets to his palace. They breakfasted with the British governor of Hong Kong. Supper parties and balls were given for them by high-ranking English army officers, Chinese mandarins and rich bankers. Lavinia leans heavily on Sylvester Bleeker's *General Tom Thumb's Three Years Tour Around the World* that describes the same journey, but her account of their adventures is spiced with keen observations on the important people she met, the famous places she saw, and sparkles with humor.

You hear her laughing voice, and admire her pluck, as she tells of their perilous journey through the wild interior of Australia. As the little people struggled through desert sand and forded swollen streams to reach their scattered audiences, they were often in danger of their lives. But midgets are notoriously lucky. They lived to travel over five thousand miles through Australia, and perform in over a hundred towns.

GENERAL AND MRS. TOM THUMB, *c.* 1875

Photograph at The New-York Historical Society

Across India, Lavinia and Minnie sang their songs, the Commodore danced and drummed, the General gave his character sketches, before packed audiences of Europeans and Indian princes. They gave shows in Suez, Cairo, and Alexandria. Then they crossed to Italy, to charm Pope Pius IX and King Victor Emmanuel. Finally, in June 1872, the four tiny creatures returned to New York, having completed a three-year tour of the world that was the talk of America.

Strangely enough, Lavinia condenses several important events

in her life that followed into the last 10 pages of her 217-page manuscript. She who has written in such detail of kings and maharajahs, and of the places she has seen, hardly more than mentions Minnie's marriage to Major Edward Newell, an English "little man" who had appeared with the General Tom Thumb troupe; and of her sister's death on giving birth to a five-pound baby.

Wealthy, and retired from the stage, General and Mrs. Tom Thumb had been living quietly with Minnie and her husband at their home in Middleboro. Minnie's death, a great shock to her sister ("Even now, I do not find it easy to speak of it"), made it impossible for Lavinia to remain in Middleboro, within sight of Minnie's grave. So the Thumbs went back to show business. For a while they toured independently, with Sylvester Bleeker as manager. Then in 1881, Barnum induced them to travel with his "Greatest Show on Earth."

During the brief season they spent with the circus date the pictures that show the General Tom Thumbs with a child, for Barnum decided to give his midgets a baby. He hired children wherever the circus happened to be; posed them with the little couple; and sold the cute pictures for 25 cents each. Barnum's hoax led to the public belief that the Tom Thumbs had a child. In several reputable books on Barnum, it is stated that their baby (sex usually not given) lived to the age of two, then died of inflammation of the brain. But the author of this article, surprised to find no mention of a child in Lavinia's journal, inquired of her nephew, Benjamin J. Bump, and was told the family secret—there never was a child. Tom Thumb loved children; Lavinia must have mourned the fact that she was childless. One wonders how she felt about the babies posed in her arms. She gives us no hint. She merely says: "Circus life was not to our liking . . . we withdrew after a season, and resumed our usual (independent) travel."

General Thumb and his wife were at the Newhall House in

Milwaukee on the night of January 10, 1883, when that hotel burned to the ground. Mr. Bleeker caught up his two midget clients, one under each arm, and carried them out safely; but Mrs. Bleeker, forced to jump from a window, was so badly injured she died. Six months later came another casualty due to the fire and "its accompanying horrors." Tears must have glistened in Lavinia's eyes as she wrote:

> The General never recovered from the shock of that terrible ordeal; he died suddenly from heart failure the following July. I must here pause to pay a loving tribute to his memory. His excellent qualities were numerous. I never knew a person so entirely devoid of malice, jealousy or envy; he had the natural instincts of a gentleman. He was kind, affectionate and generous. He had great sympathy for children and was ever ready to do anything to make them happy. He had often remarked that he never remembered having been a child, being placed on exhibition when he was but four years of age, and was then educated to act the part of a man and put childish things away. Our married life was a happy one. I particularly emphasize this, as I have frequently heard it reported that it was not congenial.

When General Tom Thumb was laid to rest in Mt. Grove Cemetery at Bridgeport, and his estate settled, it was discovered that he had spent his fortune. His widow was left poor. Lavinia claims that Barnum persuaded her to continue in show business, but it was more likely financial necessity that made her willing again to exhibit herself.

In 1884 Mrs. General Tom Thumb took out on the road a company which included two Italian dwarfs, Count Primo Magri and his brother, Baron Ernesto Magri. On April 6, 1885, two years after Tom Thumb's death, Lavinia married the midget Count at the Church of the Holy Trinity, New York, with Baron Magri as groomsman, and Miss Sarah Adams as bridesmaid. Lavinia's love of fun sparkles as she describes the ceremony:

> One bit of comedy came in of which I of course was not aware, but was afterward told by a friend who looked down from the gallery. When Major Newell, my sister Minnie's husband, walked up the aisle

with Miss Lucy Adams, the organist, having probably no knowledge that there were other small people in the world than those he was expecting, rushed into the Wedding March from Lohengrin. Hearing this the officiating clergyman stepped forward and the audience rustled and craned, only to see the two, flushed and embarrassed at the unexpected attention, hurriedly enter the first available pew.

"As I am frequently interrogated concerning my husband," she continues, "I will here say that both he and his brother, the Baron, are only an inch or two taller than myself." Count Magri was skilled in music (piano and piccolo), in fencing and boxing, which he and the Baron had to do with each other, since there was no one else their size to contest. The Count had received his title from Pope Pius IX. But he was usually known merely as "Mrs. Tom Thumb's husband." Of the two brothers Lavinia writes:

> The Baron's taste led him to take up portraiture, and he is now an excellent crayon artist, while the Count devoted himself . . . to music. His taste in that direction being modeled on classic Italian methods, he has never consented to learn 'catchy' songs and totally ignores "Rag Time" melodies. I find myself loath to tell him that the average American taste would probably be better reached through these so-called "popular airs," and so he continues to sing his operatic selections.

With the Count and the Baron, the Countess formed a midget opera company. They appeared at Coney Island, in vaudeville, with the circus, in side shows at country fairs. Lavinia sang her old songs. Count Magri warbled Italian arias, and the Baron, who whistled, served as an accompanist to his brother's vocalizing. But perhaps because the Count preferred classical music to ragtime, the Countess was never to experience again the world-wide acclaim she had shared with her first midget husband.

It is hard to tell when Lavinia, re-reading the faded clippings of her early triumphs, decided to write her life story. It must have been after 1885, when Mrs. Tom Thumb became the Countess Primo Magri; and before 1906, when parts of the manuscript appeared in print. The journal may date from about 1904. For in 1905 Lavinia, somewhat annoyed, wrote to the editor of the

BARON, COUNT AND COUNTESS MAGRI (MARRIED, NEW YORK, 1885)

Photograph at The New-York Historical Society

Boston Globe a letter (in the Hertzberg Circus Collection, San Antonio, Texas) to quell the rumor that she was dead:

> As the public are under the impression that I am not living, [*she wrote, tartly,*] I ask if you will not allow me to present you with a piece of my wedding cake which was made when I was married to Charles S. Stratton, known as the only original Gen. Tom Thumb at Grace Church, New York City, Feb. 10th, 1863. The anniversary occurred Feb. 10th, 1905. This cake is now forty-two years old. . . .

There is an echo of the above letter in the last pages of the journal. With a brave little smile, Lavinia assures the public (who may not have heard of her recently) that she is still very much alive, and emphasizes the point by relating an experience she had on her second trip to Ireland. When told that her landlord's wife had died, she asked the porter if it was true:

"Yis," said he, "God rist her soul she's dead . . . but she's not dead all over yit!" When I was in Boston not many years ago, a woman who heard me introduced as Mrs. Tom Thumb, stoutly asserted "Mrs. Tom Thumb is dead!" That woman must have thought she had some grounds for her assertion, but reader, like the good woman in Ireland, *I'm not dead all over yit!*

The Countess Magri was old, she was poor, but she was "not dead all over yit." In her sixties, as she wrote her autobiography, she was a fat, jolly little lady who still enjoyed exhibiting herself (often as Mrs. Tom Thumb) and meeting the public. "General Tom Thumb . . . kissed more ladies than any living man. I can with equal assurance assert that I have *shaken hands* with more human beings . . . than any other woman in existence."

Although married to a foreigner, the Countess was proud of her Pilgrim ancestry, and as ardently patriotic as ever. She calls herself "a rampant American," and declares that even on her honeymoon with the Count to his native Italy "my love for America seemed to grow with the hours." Returning home, the titled midgets stopped in Liverpool, and one night went to the theater:

. . . one scene introduced the flags of all nations. I had become so interested that I had temporarily forgotten the audience and when Old Glory was brought on, I sprang to the front of the box in a paroxysm of delight and yielded to the impulse to shout my joy. My confusion and embarrassment when the audience burst into sympathetic applause, had best be left to the imagination of my readers.

On bidding us goodbye, the Countess writes:

It seems as if I ought not to close without a word of my dog Topsy, who for thirteen years has been with me night and day. Lately she has taken her part in "the cast" and has done herself as much credit on the stage as had hitherto been awarded her as a traveller. Faithful as a companion, reliable as a guard, curled in my trunk tray, quiet and observant in cars and stations, she holds a place in my heart and shall have mention in my book as a friend to be esteemed and remembered. She "went to sleep" just as I put my last words on these pages and the two go out of my life together their future unguessed.

A STUDENT AT N.Y.U. IN 1847

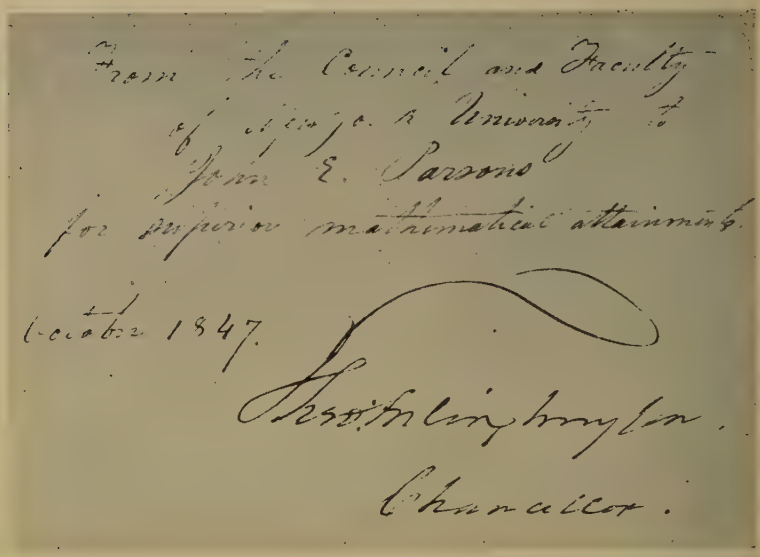
EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF JOHN E. PARSONS

Edited by a Namesake

JOHN E. PARSONS (1829–1915)
Daguerreotype of the diarist
Courtesy of Mrs. Montgomery Hare

JOURNALS are sometimes written in the expectation of future publication, but this one, by a student at New York University in 1847, manifestly was not so inspired. The diarist lived with his mother, a widow, at 15 Clinton Place, New York City; there was also a family place in Rye. When the town house came to be sold, the young man went to board with friends, his mother visiting in the City elsewhere. A seventeen-year-old does not often consort with the great, so famous names are few in this journal. But as an uninhibited account of the preoccupations of an undergraduate about a hundred years ago, it is quite informative.

In those days New York University had a faculty of seven, and an undergraduate body of 150, with thirty-one in the Junior Class. Tuition was ninety dollars a year; there was no dormitory or campus. Three hours of lectures or recitations occupied the morning, the afternoon being free and the evening devoted to social life, literary societies, fraternal gatherings or study. Courses were short, it requiring for instance only three weeks to cover the subject of the history of the United States. Examinations appear to have been conducted orally, with reports or rankings for each of the three terms in an academic year. Professors cut classes as much if not more than students. There were no organ-



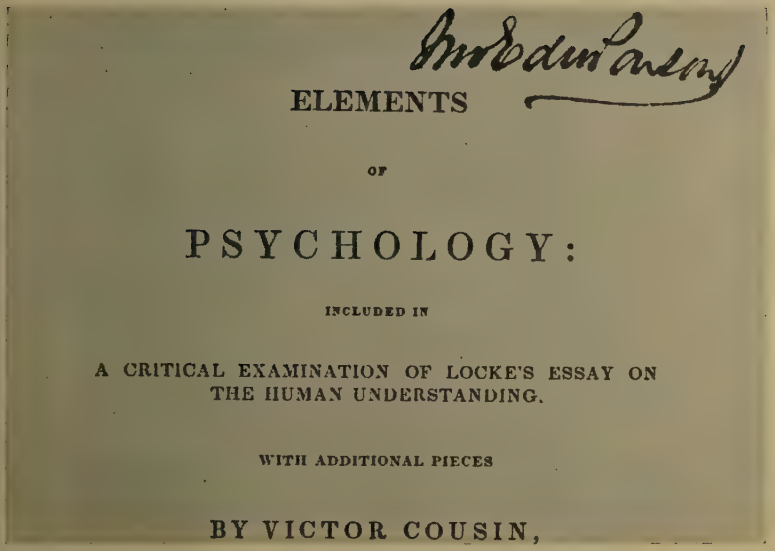
CHANCELLOR FRELINGHUYSEN'S INSCRIPTION TO THE DIARIST, 1847

On the flyleaf of *Mechanics for Practical Men*
by Alexander Jamieson, LL.D. (London: 1845)

Awarded the diarist "for superior mathematical attainments"

ized athletics or games; such pastimes as skating, sleighing, snowballing, walking or swimming took their place, and the gymnasium was one in name only.

John E. Parsons' journal reflects all these aspects of university life, at the same time noting other activities and attitudes more individualistic in nature. It reveals a swift and voracious reader of books, a consistent churchgoer with a critical ear for sermons, an ardent if somewhat uneasy sailor, and a conscientious young man with a faculty for concise expression. What has been omitted in publication bears largely on family relationships, matters of health or finances, and observations about the weather. The diary comes to an abrupt end in July of 1847; so far as is known it had no sequel.



AUTOGRAPH OF THE DIARIST ON A TEXTBOOK TITLE PAGE

"Translated from the French, with an Introduction and Notes, by C. S. Henry, D.D., Professor of Philosophy in the University of New York"

Third edition (New-York: 1842)

DIARY COMMENCING JAN. 1, 1847. J. E. PARSONS.[1]

[*January*]

2d. Came to N. Y. by the cars [from White Plains].

3d. Sunday. Went to Church twice: heard Dr. Potts.[2] In the aft. went round to the Children's School; did not get a class as I expected and decided on account of my youth to give it up.

4th. Went round to the U. and found that my books were Paley's Evidences 3s.,[3] Cousin's Psychology 5s.6d.[4] & Arnold's Lectures $1.00.[5]

[1] 1829–1915. The diarist served for thirty years on the Council of New York University. A noted trial lawyer and one of the prosecutors of the Tweed Ring, he was the tenth president of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York in 1900–1901. See its *Year Book*, 1916, p. 172, for a memorial of Mr. Parsons.

[2] Rev. George Potts, first pastor of the Presbyterian Church on University Place.

[3] Archdeacon [William] Paley's *View of the Evidences of Christianity*, Philadelphia, 1845.

[4] Victor Cousin, *Elements of Psychology* (illustrated above).

[5] Thomas Arnold, *Introductory Lectures on Modern History*, London, 1843, New York, 1845.

5th. Studied a little in the morning and made my first acquaintance with Dr. Mason's[6] room at 11, where we were lectured for 1 hr.

7th. Read Nicholas Nickleby[7] for sometime in the morning to the neglect of my studies. Recited to the Chancellor[8] instead of Mason.

8. The first division in composition did not read.

9. Read Nicholas Nickleby in the morning; went to Collamore's[9] for Mother; then went to the University.[10] Nicoll and Phelps[11] spoke. Went down to the gymnasium where I finished N. N.

10. Sunday. It commenced snowing at 7 o'clock, snowed all day and the next night steady, there being no wind. Went to church and heard Dr. Potts. A collection was taken up for the Education Society. The children were catechised in the aft. and in the evening Dr. Peck[12] of M. E. Church preached, a poor sermon.

12. Got a cold that made my eyes run and closed one in the night. In the afternoon got a sleigh ($7.) from Rooney and went to Harlem. Stopped at Bradshaw's and got a quart of mulled wine for which (5 glasses) we paid $2.[13] In the evening Mr. Ottinger[14] called in. Appointed to command a relief cutter to cruise on the L. I. coast. Promised me some Lake Superior agates.

13. Compared my report (received yesterday) with some others and found myself No. 3. My average was 96¼. My seventh report. Went down to Crowen's[15] in the afternoon for a ruler and some other things.

[6] Cyrus Mason (d. 1865), D.D., Professor of Political Economy and the Evidences of Revealed Religion, 1834–1850.

[7] Charles Dickens, London, 1839, New York, 1840.

[8] Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen (1787–1862), LL.D., Professor of Moral Philosophy and Rhetoric.

[9] Davis Collamore, china, 605 Broadway.

[10] Its building on Washington Square was completed in 1837. One of the tenants from 1841 to 1857 was The New-York Historical Society. LeRoy E. Kimball, "The Old University Building and the Society's Years on Washington Square," *New-York Hist. Soc. Quart.* July 1948, Vol. XXXII, p. 149.

[11] S. B. Nicholl, Jr., and S. W. Phelps, classmates. In later life Nicholl was a physician and town officer at Shelter Island, New York. Phelps became a Congregational minister in Illinois.

[12] Rev. George D. Peck, editor of the *Methodist Quarterly Review*.

[13] Patrick Rooney's stables were at 12 Lafayette Place. The stop for a quart of wine is interesting in view of a rule in the University Regulations: "Any student who frequents billiard rooms, taverns or other places of corrupting influence, will not be allowed to remain a member of the University."

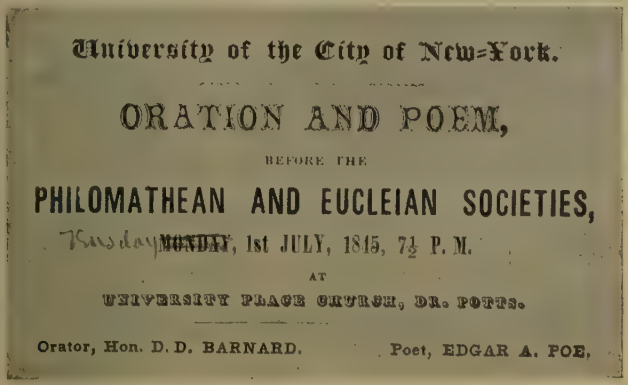
[14] Capt. Douglass Ottinger, U.S.C.G., who built the first lifesaving stations on the Atlantic Coast. See Stephen H. Evans, *The United States Coast Guard, 1790–1915*, Annapolis, 1949, p. 57.

[15] Thomas J. Crowen, books, 643 Broadway.

Commenced the Antiquary.[16] At night before bed time bathed my eyes in brandy and took an inward application also but they closed in the night.

14. My eyes very bad. Dr. Mason being absent I got excused from Prof. Henry[17] and left at 11. Finished the Antiquary. My eyes much better at evening.

15. Went to college as usual. Nothing particular happened except the departure of the snow. Went to the Society[18] in the evening: debated. Wrote out my notices and minutes mostly.



University of the City of New-York.

ORATION AND POEM,

BEFORE THE

PHILOMATHEAN AND EUCLEIAN SOCIETIES,

Tuesday MONDAY, 1st JULY, 1845, 7½ P. M.

AT

UNIVERSITY PLACE CHURCH, DR. POTTS.

Orator, Hon. D. D. BARNARD. Poet, EDGAR A. POE.

MEMENTO OF THE DIARIST'S FRESHMAN YEAR

Courtesy of the New York University Library

18. Went to the gymnasium and gave up my key. Decided to pay more attention to study.

19. Read Ten Thousand a Year[19] to keep myself awake.

20. Went to college as usual. Wrote my notes for a composition.

21. Wrote a composition for tomorrow on the Subject. "Our country wright or wrong we love thee still."

22. Recited to the Chancellor instead of Dr. Mason. In the evening went round to the Society: debated. Promised to go skating tomorrow.

[16] Sir Walter Scott, Edinburgh and New York, 1816.

[17] Caleb Sprague Henry (1804–1884), D.D., Professor of Intellectual Philosophy, History and Belles-Lettres.

[18] The Philomathean Literary Society, with rooms on the fourth floor of the University building. See Theodore Francis Jones, *New York University 1832 : 1932*, New York, 1933, p. 123.

[19] Samuel Warren, London, 1841.

THE REVEREND CYRUS MASON (d. 1865)

Portrait by Samuel L. Waldo, *c.* 1830

Owned by Dr. LeRoy E. Kimball

23. Went round to the University where I met Jaudon and Wright,[20] and then took the stage for 86th St. Borrowed of J. a pair of skates and went to the pond, a large though very rough pond. They were cutting ice out and while I was skating very fast over the bumps, looking up I saw myself not three feet from the hole. I couldn't stop so I kept on very fast and nearly cleared the hole (6 ft.) Went in about up to my armpits and came out wringing. Went to Mr. Rhinelander's cottage[21] and partially dried myself when I set out for the city and got here about 2-½ h. after falling in.

24. Sunday. Went to church twice and heard Dr. Dickinson[22] both times. Myself feeling pretty bad.

25. Felt quite sick and the doctor recommended a blue pill over night and a dose of salts in the morning.

27. Recited to the Chancellor. Read Dickens' new novel the battle of life.[23] My health continuing bad in the evening I took a blue pill to be followed in the morning by a dose of salts.

28. Took my salts and did not go to the Univ.

29. Went down to Miller's[24] and got Ivanhoe.[25] Soaked my feet in warm water and took a pill before going to bed.

30. Staid home all day. No better.

31. Sunday. Did not go to church.

February

1. Chopped wood and walked for exercise feeling much better. Dr. Henry not being at the U. the 1st. hour we all went away leaving Prof. Mason. Sold the house for $13,500.

2. Dr. Mason *not* on hand as usual[26]: recited to the Chancellor.

3. A dreadful day blowing a perfect hurricane and raining torrents.

4. Recited to the Chancellor. Capt. Ottinger came in having come down the sound in yesterday's gale. No agates yet.

5. Went round to the Society in the evening. Jaudon came for his skates.

[20] Peyton Jaudon and F. Markoe Wright, classmates. Jaudon became a banker in New York City; Wright an Army surgeon in the 2nd New York Mounted Rifles during the Civil War.

[21] Estate of William Rhinelander at 90th Street.

[22] Rev. Richard W. Dickinson.

[23] Charles Dickens, London, 1846, New York 1847.

[24] George H. Miller, books, 645 Broadway.

[25] Sir Walter Scott, Edinburgh and Philadelphia, 1820.

[26] Prof. Cyrus Mason held an endowed chair for which he had furnished part of the funds. Jones, *op. cit.*, p. 55.

6. Went round to chapel in the morning and afterwards took a walk out as far as the Reservoir.[27] Commenced "Tales of my Grandfather."[28]

7. Sunday. Went to church in the morning and afternoon. In the aft. the sermon was on fictitious works. Both sermons by strangers and both rather poor.

8. Prof. Henry not on hand the first hour.

9. Took a walk out to the corner of 9th Av. & 23d. St. A Sig[29] meeting in the evening at Martin's.[30] Found that I had been elected [an officer].

10. In the afternoon went down to Shepherd's[31] and got a Wayland's Political Economy 7s.6d.[32] Paid *that* shilling and got a bottle of ink.

11. Went down to the Gallery of Fine Arts[33] in the afternoon and over to Hadden's[34] to order a coat and vest for Mrs. Smith's blow out.

12. Measured for a coat $25 and a vest $4. Went round to the Society in the evening.

13. Went round to chapel[35] & then took a walk out to 41 st.

14. Sunday. St. Valentine's day. Dr. Potts preached in the morning and catechised the children in the afternoon.

15. Did not go to college till 11. Dr. Henry having told us he would not be there the first hour. Took our first lesson in Pol. Econ.: quite pleased with it. Went round to the gymnasium. Clothes came home in the evening. Received no Valentines and wrote none.

16. Got excused from History and went with Bond[36] down to the "Methodist Book Concern."[37] Saw all over it. Got my Catalogues (5).[38] Paid for my stock in the N. Y. University Magazine ($1.)[39]

[27] Fifth Avenue between 40th and 42nd Streets.

[28] Sir Walter Scott, Edinburgh and New York, 1828.

[29] Sigma Phi, a fraternity.

[30] John Laurie Martin, a Senior.

[31] Chauncey Shepard, books, 189½ Broadway.

[32] Francis Wayland, D.D., *Elements of Political Economy*, Boston, 1843.

[33] New York Gallery of Fine Arts on Centre Street. In 1858 its collections became the property of The New-York Historical Society.

[34] James E. Hadden, tailor, 271 Broadway.

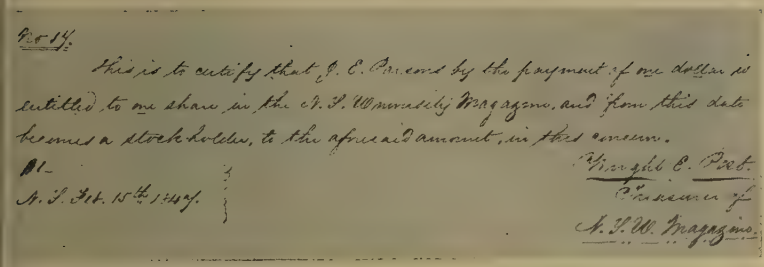
[35] University Regulations: "The Scriptures are read and prayer offered every morning in the chapel, when the Chancellor or one of the Professors officiates, and the students are required to be present."

[36] Hugh L. Bond, a classmate. Later a lawyer and Federal judge in Baltimore.

[37] Religious publishing house and bindery at 200 Mulberry Street. University Regulations: "No call of pleasure, nor even of business, unless absolutely unavoidable, should be allowed to interfere with the punctual and faithful fulfilment of all engagements at the University. The loss of a single lesson or recitation, by interrupting a regular and systematic progress, is often the first step in a series of mortifying, if not ruinous delinquencies."

[38] Joseph H. Jennings, printer, 122 Nassau Street.

[39] Only two issues appeared. Jones, *op. cit.*, p. 433.



THE DIARIST'S RECEIPT FOR A SHARE IN THE N.Y.U. MAGAZINE

17. Being Ash Wednes. we were dismissed from Henry's room. In the evening went to Mrs. Smith's party. Did not dance and enjoyed myself but little. About 150 or 200 there. Splendid supper.

18. In the afternoon went with Uncle James to see the "Sarah Sands."[40]

19. Went round to the Society and had a little row in the evening. Snowballing and such like.

20. Went round to chapel, and afterwards down town to get some books but was so unfortunate as to lose or have stolen from me a $5.

21. Snowed in the night and continued all day making pretty good sleighing. Went round to church and heard Dr. Potts. The sermon was a continuation of a previous one, ditto afternoon.

22. Dr. Henry not there the first hour: spent in snowballing. It snowed all day pretty fast making good sleighing. Went round to Hendricks'[41] to a S-g meeting in the evening.

23. Went down to Shepherd's and got a Rauch's Psychology ($1)[42] and to Harper's[43] for a History of Philosophy ($.90).[44]

25. Fine sleighing. Being the last Thursday in Feb. we had services in the chapel, Dr. Henry preaching from the parable of the unjust steward.

26. Went round to the Society in the evening and debated.

27. Read the first volume of Gil Blas.[45]

[40] Iron-hulled screw steamer on the Liverpool run, 1300 tons, built 1845.

[41] Isaac Hendricks, a Freshman.

[42] Rev. Frederick A. Rauch, *Psychology; or, A View of the Human Soul; including Anthropology*, New York, 3rd ed. 1844.

[43] Harper & Brothers, publishers, 82 Cliff Street.

[44] *An Epitome of the History of Philosophy*, translated from the French by C. S. Henry, New York, 1842.

[45] Alain Rene Le Sage, translated from the French by Tobias Smollett, New York, 1836.

THE HIGH FALLS OF TRENTON, WEST CANADA CREEK, NEW YORK 1835
Painted and engraved by W. J. Bennett (New York: L. P. Clover, 1835)

The New-York Historical Society

28. Dr. Potts preached in the morning and a collection was taken up for Home Missions. Text in the afternoon continuation of last Sunday's.

March

1. Had no recitation from Prof. Henry in consequence of sickness in his family. Wrote a composition on Trenton Falls.[46]

2. Went round to college and found Dr. Henry there. In the evening whist till 10.

3. Finished Arnold's Lectures. In the evening we all went round to the tabernacle to hear the Juvenile Oratorio Flora's Festival.[47] Much pleased

[46] On West Canada Creek, Oneida County, New York. James Stuart, *Three Years in North America*, 2nd ed. 1833, Vol. I, p. 78: "The Trenton Falls,—a succession of water-falls, which travellers generally go to see, there being six *chutes*, and the wooded ravines and banks very romantic,—are about fourteen miles from Utica on a creek which supplies the Mohawk." See also N. Parker Willis, ed., *Trenton Falls*, New York, 1851.

[47] A juvenile choir of 500 led by William B. Bradbury, advertised at the Broadway Tabernacle, *New-York Daily Tribune*, March 2, 1847 (illustrated herein, p. 23).

especially by the Hutchinsons[48] I believe who concluded the entertainment with some fine ballads.

4. Finished Cousin. We played whist till 10½.

5. Went down to see the funeral services of Capts. Morris and others,[49] but I was too late. In the evening went round to the Society.

6. Walked out of town some distance. Read Ernest Maltravers through.

8. Finished E. M. & the sequel Alice[50] and vowed to give up novels. Took a first lesson in the History of the U. S.[51]

9. The first number of the Magazine came out. Pretty good, though nothing like I supposed it would be.

10. Mother was bled by leeches to put down the pain in her side.

11. Went to a S-g me-g at Martin's. Recited today for the second time in Rauch.

12. Went round to the Society in the evening: did not do anything. Passed the motion on the magazine.

13. Went round to the U. in the morning, then took a short walk, got some Glauber Salts and vainly tried to make a crystal. Went down town in the evening and stopped at Gurly's[52] to see an auction.

14. Sunday. Dr. Potts preached in the morning, in the afternoon catechised the children.

15. Commenced to read Scott's Waverl[e]y.[53]

16. We had no recitation the second hour.

17. Recited to the Chancellor instead of Mason, who gave the c[lass] Paley instead of Wayland, probably for reasons of his own.

18. Went to a S-g m--g at Vermilye's.[54] Finished Scott's Rob Roy and commenced the Black Dwarf.[55] Finished the history of the United States.

[48] A family of popular singers.

[49] Capt. Lewis N. Morris, U.S.A., of Albany, and Capts. George P. Field and William G. Williams, U.S.A., of Buffalo, fell in the Battle of Monterey. The funeral service was at St. Paul's Church.

[50] Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton, London and New York, 1837.

[51] Probably Salma Hale, *History of the United States, from their first Settlement as Colonies, to the close of the War with Great Britain in 1815*, of which several editions appeared 1825–1843.

[52] Gurley, Royal & Co., auctioneers, 304 Broadway.

[53] Sir Walter Scott, Edinburgh, 1814, Boston, 1815.

[54] William E. Vermilye, a classmate. Afterwards a physician in New York City and Pittsfield, Mass.

[55] *Rob Roy*, Edinburgh and New York, 1818; *The Black Dwarf*, Edinburgh, 1816, New York, 1817.

19. Barker exposed Big Catlin for plagiarism.[56] Went round to the Society in the evening.

20. Communion Sunday. Dr. Potts preached morning and afternoon. A collection was taken up for the poor fund of the Church.

22. A rainy day (the equinoctial storm?) kept us in the house all day. Told about examination and reviewed the history of the U. S.

23. Again reviewed Arnold's last lecture and the Introduction and article on Consumption in Wayland.

24. Reviewed the article on Production and heard Mason read his article on taxation. We did not recite the third hour to Henry.

25. We reviewed logic[57] with Henry and Paley with Mason. Had a Sig— at our house in the evening.

26. Commenced raining at 12½ and continued pouring all night blowing a hurricane. Went to the Soc. in the evening and was elected 2nd Vice. Among other things at one sweep hit the chandelier and cleared it of three shades, smashing them nicely.

27. Spent the day in preparing for examination.

28. Dr. Dickinson preached in the morning. Dr. Potts in the afternoon.

29. Examined on Paley and Wayland to Mason and on Logic and Cousin to Henry.

30. Examined in Natural Philosophy, History of the U. S. and Guizot[58] in all of which studies we were declared to have sustained a good examination.

31. Went down town to get a pair of pantaloons.

April

2. Walked out to the new rail-road depot.[59] Commenced reading Plutarch's Lives. My pants came home and they fit.

3. In the afternoon went down town and in the evening to see Christy's Minstrels[60] who pleased us much.

[56] William P. Barker and Charles M. Catlin, classmates. Barker became a Presbyterian clergyman and missionary in India; Catlin an importer and merchant in New York City.

[57] Richard Whately, D.D., *Elements of Logic*, Boston, 1845.

[58] Francois Pierre Guillaume Guizot, French historian and author of *The History of Civilization*, translated by William Hazlitt, London and New York, 1846. A textbook of his was *Guizot's Essay on the Character and Influence of Washington in the Revolution of the United States of America*, translated from the French by George S. Hillard, Boston, 1840.

[59] New York and Harlem R.R., Fourth Avenue at 32nd Street.

[60] Negro singers advertised at Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway, *Tribune*, April 2, 1847 (illustrated next page).

Amusements.

THE HUTCHINSON FAMILY, on their return home from their Western tour, announce with pleasure to their friends and citizens of New-York that they will give a vocal entertainment at the Broadway Tabernacle on Friday evening, March 5, being their last Concert but one for the season in New-York. Tickets 50 cents each, to be obtained at the Music Stores, and at the door on the evening of Concert.

PROGRAMME:

PART I.

"We're with you once again." Words by G. P. Morris; Music by Hutchinson.

Quartette—"The old Church Bell." Melody by Russell; arranged by Hutchinson.

"He doeth all things well."

"The Bridge of Sighs." Words by the late Thomas Hood; Music by Hutchinson.

PART II.

THE MOUNTAINEER.

"Tis I am the Mountaineer;
My kingdom 's the greenwood free,
My subjects the wild bird and deer,
My palace the spreading tree."

Melody by Marshall; arranged by Hutchinson.

THE MAY QUEEN.

(Second part.)

Poetry by Tennyson; Music by Dempster.

The Slave's Appeal.

Excelsior. Written by Longfellow.

PART III.

"There's a good time coming." Music by Hutchinson.

MAN THE LIFE BOAT.

Finale.

"The Old Granite State." m2

JUVENILE ORATORIO!

THE SECOND TIME,

At the Tabernacle,

ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 3, the "Little Oratorio,"

FLORA'S FESTIVAL,

will be repeated by particular request, by a select and well-trained choir of FIVE HUNDRED YOUNG MASTERS AND MISSES, under the direction of Mr. Bradbury.

The house will be decorated and the singers dressed in a manner corresponding with the evening's entertainment; and it is perhaps needless to say that neither pains or expense will be spared to render Flora's Festival an exhibition worthy the liberal patronage that has heretofore been given to his efforts in this department of musical labor.

Tickets 50 cents each.

For sale at the principal Music and Book Stores, and at the Ticket Office on the evening of the Concert. Children under twelve years of age, accompanied by parents or guardians, half price.

Doors open at half-past 6. Entertainment to commence at half-past 7 o'clock. W. B. BRADBURY.

25f TuThSatk MTuW

MECHANICS' HALL,

472 BROADWAY, between Grand and Broome sts.

SEVENTH WEEK.

CHRISTY'S

MINSTRELS

Have the honor of announcing that they will continue their popular Concerts, which are nightly crowded to overflowing,

EVERY NIGHT THIS WEEK.

Admission 25 cents.—Concert to commence at 8 o'clock. Change of programme every evening. m29 1wis*

AMERICAN MUSEUM—Splendid exhibitions and performances every afternoon at 3 o'clock, and every evening at 7½.

☞ The Manager has engaged the Dioramic and Panoramic Representation of the Removal of the Remains of NAPOLEON BONAPARTE from St. Helena to France for burial, and the magnificent and gorgeous ceremonies performed in honor of THE ILLUSTRIOUS DEAD.—Models of 20 of the largest Diamonds. Also a beautiful and healthy LIVING ORANG OUTANG. Two monster SNAKES 20 feet long. ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS.—GREAT WESTERN. MISSES WHEELER and JULIEN. MADAME ROCKWELL, the Fortune Teller.

ANATOMICAL VENUS, to be seen at all hours at an extra charge of one shilling.

Admittance 25 cents; children under 10, 12½ cents. m29

ADVERTISEMENTS OF PROGRAMS

which the diarist attended

From the *N. Y. Daily Tribune*, 1847, for March 2 and April 2, respectively

4. Sunday. Dr. Potts preached in the morning and afternoon.

5. In the evening went to the American Museum[61] but was little pleased.

6. Commenced packing with my books.

7. Continued packing. Saw my room at Mrs. Jesup's.[62] Dr. Cruger came to see us in regimentals.

8. Continued packing.

9. This was my last day as an inhabitant of No. 15 Clinton Place.[63] Went to Rye.

14. Came to Mrs. Jesup's. Roomed with F. J.

16. Had an invitation from Capt. Ottinger to dine with him tomorrow.

17. Went down to the Battery whence with Capt. O. and F. Jesup we set off for the Taney.[64]

18. Sunday. Dr. Potts preached. Had a long talk with Fred in the evening.

19. Went to U. & found that we were to study Olmsted's Astronomy 12[65] and Cicero's Disputation 6. No lesson given for the other hour.

[61] P. T. Barnum, Broadway and Ann Street (illustration to the left).

[62] Mrs. Abigail Jesup, 141 Eighth Street.

[63] University Regulations: "Students whose parents reside in the city, are supposed to live in their own families; for those who come from a distance, boarding may be obtained in respectable private families."

[64] Fore-topsail schooner 73 ft. 4 in. over-all, 20 ft. 6 in. beam, 112 tons. See Evans, *op. cit.*, p. 24.

[65] Denison Olmsted, A.M., *An Introduction to Astronomy*, New York, 4th ed. 1844.

20. Mr. Laight took possession of our house. Recited the first day to both Johnson[66] & Loomis[67]—Rogers[68] gave me a ticket to his Society anniversary.

21. Went to a Sig. meeting at Vermilye's. No lesson yet the second hour. Took a long walk out of town in the early evening.

22. Went round to the Pathologian[69] Anniversary. Commenced Greek at the U., a review of Prometheus.

23. Went round to the Society. Played chess in the evening with Fred.

24. No chapel in the morning.

25. Sunday. A stranger preached in the morning; Dr. Potts in the afternoon.

26. New magazine out: better than last one.

27. Beginning to learn a little how to play chess.

28. Got into my own room and moved my books. Had a lesson given us in the Novum Testamentum Graecum.

29. At last got the Gorgias[70] and took a first lesson for tomorrow. Price $1.00. Stopped by the rain from going to the Academy of Design.[71]

30. Went round to the Society in the evening but quickly returned to play chess with Morris.[72]

May

1. To the Academy of Design where I bought a season ticket and stayed a couple of hours.

2. Went to church twice. Dr. Potts preached in the morning, Dr. Dickinson in the afternoon.

[66] Ebenezer A. Johnson (1813–1891), A.M., Professor of the Latin Language and Literature.

[67] Elias Loomis (1811–1899), A.M., Professor of Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and Astronomy.

[68] John N. Rogers, a Classmate. Afterwards a lawyer, legislator, professor of law and judge in Iowa.

[69] No society of this name has been identified. Possibly meant was the Eucleian, a literary society rivalling the Philomathean, its anniversary card being among the diarist's college mementoes.

[70] Theodore D. Woolsey [ed.], *The Gorgias of Plato, chiefly according to Stallbaum's text*, Boston, 1842.

[71] National Academy of Design, 348 Broadway.

[72] Morris K. Jesup (1830–1908), a lifelong friend. Later a railroad financier and first president of the Museum of Natural History.

UNIVERSITY OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

TERM. ENDING April 2 1849

THE Professors of the undergraduate Faculty, make the following report on the standing and acquirements of J. E. Parsons

(Signed)

E. Lewis *Secretary of the Faculty.*

CHAPEL ATTENDANCE.

Attendances Required.	Number of times present.
70	64

RECITATIONS.

One hundred is the mark of highest merit.

STUDIES.	Number of Recitations required.	Absent.	Scholarship.	Standing.
Evid. Rev. Rel.	No report as well as Political Econ.			
Rhetoric.				
History.				
Belles Lettres.	58	1	95	
Composition and Forensic Exercises	4		90	
Mathematics.				
Nat. Philos.				
Astronomy.				
Greek.				
Latin.				
Intel. Philos.	58	1	95	
Logic.				
Nat. Theology.				
Moral Philos.				
Chemistry.				
Geology.				
Mineralogy.				
Botany.				

In case a Student has been present at a recitation, but not called upon, the average merit for the term is allowed him. No allowance is made for absence, whether excused or unexcused.

N. B. The standing is made up of Scholarship and Conduct.

Honorable. 3/280 93⅓

3. Took a walk down to the East River. Had a new acquisition in our class.

4. Find astronomy growing harder.

5. Held the Society instead of tomorrow night. Received our reports [*see reproduction on the preceding page*]. Av. 93⅓. Very poor: 5 or 6 ahead of me.

7. Went down to the illumination[73] in the evening but was prevented by the immense crowd from going beyond Chamber St.

8. No chapel in the morning.

9. Sunday. Heard Dr. Potts in the morning, and in the afternoon it being catechism Sunday, I went with Mother to Dr. Philips.[74] Had green peas. Season beginning to open.

10. Chancellor at last returned. Told that we were to have after tomorrow for holiday in consequence of the anniversaries.[75]

11. Played chess in the evening.

12. Got my bill for four weeks $21.

13. Checkmated Morris once and stalemated him once.

14. Went down in the morning to the Academy.

16. Sunday. Dr. P. preached morning and afternoon. Wore my new gaiters. Find myself as I fear running after a shadow. Alas!!

18. Prof. Loomis promised us a look at Jupiter and some of the stars but the evening being cloudy we did not go.

19. In the evening we had the pleasure of seeing Jupiter and his moons, Venus and one horn of the moon.

20. To a Sig meeting. Looked at some spots on the sun's disc. There were four; the largest of which in size and appearance was thus [sketch] three smaller [sketch].

21. In the evening went round to the Society.

22. Spent the evening most delightfully with *her*. Made a selection of some things to give Prof. Loomis, literature & jewelry.

[73] In celebration of victories in the War with Mexico.

[74] Rev. William W. Phillips of the First Presbyterian Church, Fifth Avenue and 10th Street.

[75] A week of evangelical sermons and meetings of various religious bodies in the City.

STEAM SHIP "WASHINGTON"
Lithograph by N. Currier, 1847
The New-York Historical Society

23. Sunday. A stranger preached in the morning. In the afternoon Dr. Potts on sin in general.

24. The class decided to give Prof. Loomis a pencil case, and I subscribed $1.50.

25. Yesterday last day for the Seniors.

27. Prof. Johnson asked me to be one of the [chapel] monitors which I accepted.

28. Took a walk up to Calvary Church.[76] In the evening to the Philo. where I *presided*. At 4 A.M. got up and took a horseback ride.

29. Went down to see the Washington.[77] Got some standing collars and other things. Stayed up till 12. reading the Quiet Husband.[78]

30. Went to church twice. Dr. Potts preached.

31. Commenced my duty as monitor. Played chess with Morris and got beat.

[76] Fourth Avenue between 21st and 22nd Streets.
[77] First steam packet of the Ocean Steam Navigation Company, 1750 tons, newly built.
[78] Ellen Pickering, Philadelphia, 1845.

June

1. First day of summer. Took a walk up to the Calvary Church. An extra meeting of the Philoma.

2. To a Sig meeting in the evening. Beautiful serenade in the night, which I heard.

3. Had a lecture in Loomis' rooms.

4. Went around to the Society in the evening.

5. Went round to the Philo. thence down to Jennings' with Suffern[79] to order a pencil. Being alone, think to myself how deeply my feelings are engaged.

6. Went round to church, morning and afternoon Dr. Sprague of Albany[80] preached.

7. Had strawberries for tea. Walked in the afternoon. Two weeks more!

8. In the evening Capt. Ottinger was here to tell me to be ready at 1 tomorrow to take a cruise in the Taney of a week in company with the Russian Consul General.[81]

9. Got permission from the Chancellor to leave and at 1 came to the Battery. Went aboard the Taney and at 2 weighed anchor and stood down the Bay. Anchored off the Highland lights. Wind rather strong and a touch of the Ocean made me quite sick. Went to bed at 10 and slept till 3½.

10. Splendid night and day. Wind middling in the morning increasing toward night into a stiff breeze. Went fishing at 6 A.M. but caught nothing. Weighed anchor at 12 but found we were aground and by 2 P.M. hauled off and started for Montauk with a wind that made the Capt. after we got out 12 m. return to our old quarters. Wind changed but still continued blowing pretty hard.

11. Left the Bay at 1½ A.M. Wind strong though favorable and I was sick enough. Got to Montauk Is. 120 m. in about 12 h. at 1½ P.M. Went ashore and visited the Light House, came on board and at 5 P.M. started again for New London, distant 21 m. which we reached at 7½. Went through the "Race"; Harlgate on a large scale. Had a good sleep in a good harbor. Clear in the morning; rainy in the evening.

[79] Andrew E. Suffern, a classmate. Later a lawyer, district attorney, and judge in Rockland County, New York.

[80] Rev. William B. Sprague, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Albany, and author of *Annals of the American Pulpit.*

[81] Alexis Eustaphieve, 107 Tenth Street.

12. Came ashore in the morning, and went to the Custom House. Also vent with the Capt. to see Gen. Burbec[82] a Revolutionary. Gave directions to Mr. Gordon for a boat to be 14 ft. long. To cost $50. Returned at 2 P.M. when we got under weigh and beat down to the mouth of the Connecticut. Visited the Light House, returned to the boat and with almost a calm, set out to beat down to New Haven. Clear most all of the day.

13. We were from 7 P.M. yesterday till 1 P.M. to day in beating down to New Haven. Went ashore at 3½. Too late and walked around the City. Beautiful. Clear and calm in the morning: showery in the afternoon.

14. Unfavorable wind kept us in N. H. till late Sunday. Consul left for N. Y. Started for Norwalk at 4 P.M. with a gale of wind from the W. which kept us beating down the Sound for a long while. Heavy sea, though I stood it. Unpleasant and showery all day with a perfect gale from the W. directly ahead.

15. Got into Norwalk harbor at 7 A.M. Went ashore to see the light. Started for Rye at 2 P.M. Clear though bitter cold. Got off Captain's Island by 5. and immediately went ashore.

16. Visited the Light in the morning and at 8 A.M. started for N. Y. getting here at 3½ P.M. Wind light and ahead.

17. Got up at 6 and reviewed my Latin as well as some of my Astronomy before College. Found them reviewing at the U. and myself a little behindhand though still able to answer questions puzzling Rogers.[83]

18. Had a lecture in Loomis' rooms. Went around to the Soc. in the evening. Got "Omoo,"[84] also Typee,[85]

19. Reviewed most of my Greek. Near though not in contact with magnet in the evening.

20. Sunday. Heard a stranger in the morning and Dr. Potts in the afternoon.

21. Went and got Loomis' pencil in the afternoon. Went to a Sig meeting in the ev. at Martin's and we initiated Platt.[86] Reviewing a little.

[82] Bvt. Brig. Gen. Henry Burbeck (1754–1848), an artillerist in the Continental Army.

[83] Rogers was valedictorian of the Class of 1848. Of classmates mentioned by the diarist, four became physicians, four lawyers, three clergymen, and three merchants or bankers.

[84] Herman Melville, New York, 1847.

[85] Herman Melville, New York, 1846.

[86] James M. Platt, a Senior.

22. Ended our Junior Year. Prepared some for our examination tomorrow. Went round to see the solar spots. Wrote Loomis a letter.

23. Examined in all our studies and all of us but two or three passed creditably. Got the first mathematical prize. Rogers the second and Barnet[87] the third. In the evening went round to hear Prof. Lewis[88] lecture before the Soc. of Inquiry of the Theological Seminary: two hours long. Went to the Philomathean to meet some fellows and stayed till 1.

24. Went down to the Battery and took a Bath. In the evening went to see Sinclair[89] and saw the moon and Venus. Put on summer clothes for the first.

25. Met Lane, Suffern and Rice[90] at the Philomathean Hall. Got Loomis' answer to our letter. Went to see the procession for the President.[91]

26. Again around to the Philomathean. In the evening went with Fred and Morris to take a Bath.

27. Sunday. Communion in our Church. Heard Dr. Potts.

28. In the evening we had our Oration by the Hon. Mr. Dayton[92] but were disappointed in the poem.[93]

29. In the evening went to hear Dr. Mason's Oration before the Alumni and then to the Theo. Commencement.

[87] James P. Barnett, a classmate. In later life a physician in Manhattan and Brooklyn. The Chancellor's inscription on the flyleaf of the book which the diarist received as a prize is reproduced herein, p. 12.

[88] Tayler Lewis (1802–1877), LL.D., Professor of the Greek Language and Literature. In an autobiographical sketch written in 1914, shortly before his death, the diarist noted: "At New York University I had the great advantage of the instruction as Professors by Taylor Lewis in Greek, Elias Loomis in mathematics, Edward A. (?) Johnson in Latin, and in philosophy and English literature Dr. C. S. Henry. I was one of the youngest members of the class, graduated third, in mathematics tied as No. 1, was for one term president of the Philomathean Literary Society, was a member of the Sigma Phi Greek Letter Society."—*Op. cit.*, note 1, p. 176.

[89] James Sinclair, a classmate. He became a Presbyterian clergyman at Smithtown, New York.

[90] Edward Smith Lane and John F. Rice, classmates. Lane became a well known member of the New York City bar and was for fifteen years a member of the N. Y. U. Council. Rice became a merchant in New York City.

[91] President James K. Polk was welcomed to the City.

[92] Hon. William L. Dayton, U. S. Senator from New Jersey, spoke on "The Characteristics of the Spirit of Modern Inquiry."

[93] The *Tribune* noted that "the annual Poem was not delivered."

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

The Columbia Historical Portrait of New York. By JOHN A. KOUWENHOVEN. (Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Co., 1953. 552 pages, including general index and street index, illus. $21.00.)

Its subtitle—"an essay in graphic history"—is the clue to the character of Mr. Kouwenhoven's handsome and often exciting picture book about New York City. Hence the reviewer must give it consideration both as an exercise in pictorial history and as a contribution to an understanding of the history of the metropolis.

In the past twenty years, the practices of the picture magazines, as well as a new concern for what educators call "visual aids," have led to increasing experimentation with pictorial history. Mr. Kouwenhoven tried his hand at this technique in his *Adventures of America, 1857–1900* (1938); but the present work is a much more elegant and sophisticated example of this relatively new expository form.

The scope, interest, and variety of the pictures attest both to the extensiveness of the author's research into the pictorial sources of the city's history and to his skill and originality in using them. The array of reproductions—of maps, paintings, engravings, lithographs, and photography—constitutes not only a visual panorama of the evolving city, but also a guide to the types of graphic sources available to the historian in describing it. Of almost equal importance, in a book of this kind, is the attractiveness of the physical design and layout of the pages, credited somewhat obscurely to Alma Reese Cardi, and the admirable details of manufacture—in this instance by sheet-fed gravure on a heavy bond, which shows the reproductions to maximum advantage.

Less satisfying is the author's technique with respect to the textual explanation and interpretation of the pictures. This is presented literally on two different levels, on each page: in captions associated with the pictures and in interpretative comment running across the top of the page. The captions do not provide a unifying narrative as they do in most pictorial histories, but rather offer the sort of explanatory detail that would be presented on a gallery tour, some of which is of decidedly peripheral interest. The interpretative comment is too brief and general to be really meaningful, and the practice, frequently employed, of extending a single sentence across the tops of as many as three or four pages is often bothersome, if not actually confusing, to the reader.

Though prior attention has been paid to the physical qualities of this impressive volume, it should not be assumed that it is more a work of art than a work of history, despite a lapse or two from complete historical accuracy. Through his selection of pictures Mr. Kouwenhoven has aimed to do something more than acquaint the reader with the physical and

social features of New York City of the past. His primary concern is admittedly with an historical consideration—the nature of man's awareness of the city and his changing attitudes toward the developing metropolis.

For example, the selections for the pioneer period point up the fact that, though the houses of New Amsterdam faced toward Europe, the whole region around the harbor was already portrayed as a single, interrelated community. Pictures dating to the early nineteenth century show, for the first time, an interest in the human elements of the urban scene; and by the 1840's the preoccupation with panoramic views suggests a growing pride in the physical magnitude of the fast expanding city. The pictorial comment of succeeding decades reflects, among other things, a recognition of the prevailingly commercial focus of New York City, its reputation for wickedness in the seventies and eighties, its vertical thrust, apparent by 1900, and the increasing realism of its social insight, brought into sharp relief by candid, "straight" photography, as the twentieth century progressed.

"Out of this survey came an awareness of certain major changes in man's image of the city," the author writes in his preface, "and it is these changes, rather than any preconceived theories of urban development, which have dictated both the choice of pictures and the sequence in which they are presented." Naturally, because of this sophisticated aim, the volume offers much that is highly stimulating to the serious student of the history of New York City and, indeed, of cities in general. But even for the casual reader, who presumably will be more interested in the pictures themselves than in what they reveal about the people who produced them, this is a fascinating collection and one which will help to keep alive the history of a city in which ever-enveloping growth and change are more than usually destructive of the structural record of its past.

New York University BAYRD STILL

Messrs. William Pepperrell: Merchants at Piscataqua. By BYRON FAIRCHILD. (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, for The American Historical Association, 1954. xi + 223 pages, biblio., index, illus. $3.50.)

The Piscataqua River, which separates Maine from New Hampshire, has formed an impressive bay where it joins the ocean at the site of present-day Portsmouth. At about the three-quarter mark in the seventeenth century a young man from Devonshire, William Pepperrell, selected a tiny fishing village which then existed at Piscataqua as his new home. A long generation later his son and namesake led the Colonial forces which took the French stronghold of Louisbourg during King William's War and thus afforded the family what Mr. Fairchild refers to as its "narrow escape" from oblivion. This fortuitous circumstance accounts in considerable measure for the preservation of family records

which Mr. Fairchild has used to reconstruct the commercial careers of the Pepperrells at Piscataqua in the "lost" century of American history between the founding of the Colonies and their revolt against English rule.

The commerce of the Pepperrells was dominated, despite frequent changes in emphasis, by two-way exchanges with areas which produced what Piscataqua needed and needed what Piscataqua had to sell. The two basic resources at the disposal of the Pepperrells were fish and lumber; their area demanded rum, molasses, salt, manufactured goods, naval stores, and provisions. The West Indies provided rum and molasses in return for fish and lumber. One or the other of Piscataqua's products, if not both, were exchanged for salt and other items in southern Europe and for imported manufactured goods at either Boston or Newfoundland. Some of the goods and much of the profit derived from these exchanges went to the southern Colonies for naval stores and provisions. Over the years from 1680 to the middle of the eighteenth century the Pepperrells accumulated a very impressive fortune by keeping a large fleet of tiny vessels constantly engaged in small-scale ventures of these varieties.

These trade patterns of the Pepperrells lend considerable support to those who contend that historians in the past have overemphasized the importance of each Colony's ties to England and failed to accord proper recognition to the importance of commercial relations among the Colonies themselves. However, Fairchild points out that the Pepperrells' trade with England was increasing toward the middle of the eighteenth century and that at times their ventures assumed the triangular patterns so often followed by ships from the major port cities of the northern Colonies in pursuit of means to pay for imports from England. Presumably this and the parallel rise in the importance of the storekeeping function of the Pepperrells merely reflected an increase in the population of the Piscataqua hinterland. It is significant, too, that Sir William Pepperrell, as he became after the Louisbourg triumph, deposited in London, for reasons which are not made clear, a considerable portion of his fortune.

In addition to the information which he provides on trade patterns at a place and at a time too long neglected by American historians, Mr. Fairchild makes other contributions of note. Surprisingly voluminous local governmental and other records have enabled him to compile a remarkable account of the infant settlement at Piscataqua in the late seventeenth century. He indicates, too, in contrast with a popular tradition concerning Colonial commerce, that illegal trade had little importance for the Pepperrells; their occasional violations of law seem in fact to have been characterized by ignorance and indifference more often than by premeditated and carefully concealed evasion. There is an excellent chapter on "Ships and the Men Who Sailed Them."

Mr. Fairchild's research gives every evidence of thoroughness and the critical bibliography which he has appended, while neither as complete

nor as critical as it might have been, is interesting and valuable. The style of writing is generally fluent and straightforward, although the reader is occasionally jolted by an abrupt transition or confused as to the significance of a section of chronological narrative.

New York City PHILIP L. WHITE

The Village of Oyster Bay; Its Founding and Growth from 1653 to 1700. By VAN S. MERLE-SMITH, JR. (Privately printed: distributed by Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1953. xv + 104 pages, appendices, biblio., maps. $5.00.)

Colonial Huntington, 1653–1800. By ZELL MORRIS GOULD and HENRIETTA KLABER. (Huntington, N.Y.: The Huntington Press, 1953. 92 pages, biblio., index, illustrated by Mary Helen Glezen. $1.00.)

Our Town Huntington. (Huntington, N.Y.: The "Huntington Tercentenary Committee, Inc.," 1953. 98 pages, illus. $1.00.)

Cold Spring Harbor Soundings. (Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.: The Cold Spring Harbor Village Improvement Society, 1953. 85 pages, illus. $5.00.)

The year 1653 was memorable on Long Island. Three adjoining north-shore harbors have just celebrated three hundred years of history: Oyster Bay, the most westerly, in Nassau County; Cold Spring Harbor between, partly in Nassau, partly in Suffolk County; and Huntington, the most easterly, now entirely in Suffolk. All three villages have published commemorative works, enhancing their fascinating pasts and contributing a record for future use.

Merle-Smith's *The Village of Oyster Bay; Its Founding and Growth from 1653 to 1700* shows scholarly achievement, produced through fondness for community lore and in pursuit of a Master's degree in history. He has painstakingly worked out the original land titles of grants which include many well-known family names. Maps increase proper understanding; end papers are enticing. We are told of the Dutch navigator De Vries's giving Oyster Bay its name, and, as "Long Island" is used on Henry Hudson's map under Dutch auspices earlier than De Vries's journal, this once-puzzling earliest use of the name is established. Underhill, Weeks, and Feke (Feake) are all included, not to mention George Fox. One regrets that Mr. Merle-Smith limited his work to the period he has so well analyzed. The following century was full of stirring times of the Revolution at the Townsend family's "Raynham Hall."

Colonial Huntington 1653–1800 is a splendid record of Huntington's rich history. The authors divide it into two parts: "The Earliest Days" and "The Revolutionary Period." Tribute is paid to the Huntington

Historical Society for use of its collections and for the cooperation of its officers. Having ancestors among the early settlers increased the enthusiasm of this reviewer for this well-documented book. With a complete bibliography and index, it will be a solid reference source, to which charm is added by the numerous illustrations. Lloyd's Neck was then in the Town of Oyster Bay (at that time part of Queens County), the township crossing the Island from Sound to Ocean. A good map, drawn after the post-Civil War creation of the Town of Babylon to the south, is an addition of great value. The book brings to mind that the traditions of Silas Wood and Nathaniel Prime are not dead.

The publication produced by the village Tercentenary Committee, *Our Town Huntington*, a 98-page pictorial history, is a most interesting record of scenes from the original Indian inhabitants to 1953 and represents painstaking labor.

Cold Spring Harbor Soundings is a unique book issued by the Village Improvement Society on the occasion of its anniversary—a collector's item both for its beautiful typography and authorship. Well printed on good paper, it is artistically designed within a beautiful cover in color presenting the print of the Harbor by Lange. End papers put to good use a reproduction of an early map with soundings of the north side's offshore waters. Eleven chapters cover 300 years of activity, many written with the reverence of descendants of the early settlers. John Watkins has contributed a foreword of real spirit and his firm did a fine typographical work with skill and craftsmanship. The edition is limited and numbered, adding zest to a product already valuable in content.

If it is true that "truth is beauty," then it is becoming for this fine history of one of Long Island's most charming spots to wear fine attire. From the standpoint of scholarship, the events of whaling days, of Washington's trip through the locale, the coming of the railroad, and the older days of the community, give the readers of this book real gold.

Nassau County Historian JESSE MERRITT

Myer Myers, Goldsmith, 1723–1795. By JEANNETTE W. ROSENBAUM. (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1954. 141 pages, illus., technical notes, biblio. $6.00.)

Myer Myers, Goldsmith is a beautifully printed book on the life and work of this patriot and craftsman of Colonial and Revolutionary New York. Mrs. Rosenbaum has had to search through many obscure records to piece together the facts of Myers' life. That she has been able to make him "come alive" is a tribute to her skill as writer and scholar. The plates are excellent and the technical notes by Mrs. Kathryn C. Buhler of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, are most valuable.

The New-York Historical Society CAROLYN SCOON

RECENT ACCESSIONS

MANUSCRIPTS of Rev. John Hutchinson, editor of Thomas Hutchinson's *History of Massachusetts Bay*, Vol. III (1828), including 78 pages printed in that volume with 57 pages of unpublished notes and transcripts of documents in two portfolios; 93 genealogies and biographies; 53 local histories, and 47 other books on historical subjects. *Gift of Dr. Frederick B. Adams, Sr.*

Uniforms and accessories worn by Thomas Henry Barber, Inspector-General of New York State. *Gift of Mr. Thomas H. Barber.*

Miniature of Katherine Polegreen (b. 1722), possibly by Benjamin West; collection of silver, lace, glass, and jewelry from the Miller family of Barbados, B.W.I., later of Cooperstown, N.Y. *Gift of Miss M. Gertrude Deavenport, in memory of her mother and sisters.*

Index of Buckinghamshire Wills, 1483–1659, compiled by A. Vere Woodman. *Gift of Brigadier General John Ross Delafield.*

Four plaster busts by the donor: Adolph S. Ochs, Michael Mordkin, Dr. Selman Waksman, and Swami Vivekananda; two scrapbooks of theater and concert programs, 1905–1925, collected by Dr. William Kinnicut Draper. *Gift of Miss Malvina Hoffman.*

The Book of Common Prayer (New York: 1819) which belonged to Mayor Philip Hone, great-great-granduncle of the donor. *Gift of Miss Mary Crane Hone.*

Two albums of Photographs of members of the Murray, Bayard, and Cutting families. *Gift of Mrs. Bayard James.*

Manuscript field book of Robert M. McDowell, surveyor, of farms in the township of Oswegatchie, St. Lawrence County, New York, 1823. *Gift of Mrs. Schuyler Miller.*

Manuscript accounts of Governor's Island, Boston Harbor, 1772–1773. *Gift of Mr. Charles F. Montgomery.*

Oil portrait by Ellen Emmet Rand, 1923, of William Rhinelander Stewart (1852–1929), Recording Secretary of the Society, 1924–1929, and father of the donor. *Gift of Mrs. Lewis Gouverneur Morris.*

Three portraits of Lucretia Morse, the donor's mother: (1) in oil by Edward Harrison May (1824–1887); (2) in miniature by John Carlin (1813–1891); (3) in watercolor and crayon. *Gift of Miss Edna Morse.*

Letter from Lafayette, 1825, Philip Schuyler (1788–1865), their great-grandfather. *Gift of Misses Constance and Alice L. Ogden.*

One hundred photographs of the New Jersey coast and Central Railroad, and of ocean steamships. *Gift of Mr. Joseph Osgood.*

"The Autobiography of a School"—records of the Lawrence Smith School for Boys, New York City, 1914–1939, with a Foreword by Clement Lawrence Smith, Headmaster. *Gift of Mr. Clement Lawrence Smith.*

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